ULTIMATE
NEW ULTIMATES
ISSUE 1
LOEB • CHO
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EIGHT MONTHS LATER...
IT WOULD'VE BEEN A GOOD LIFE.
MORE MONEY THAN I COULD EVER SPEND.
FAST CARS. FAST GIRLS. FAST. FAST. FAST. AND THEN ALL AT ONCE:
"MISTER STARK, YOU HAVE CANCER."
THE TRISKELION. S.H.I.E.L.D. BASE OF OPERATIONS. HOME OF THE NEW ULTIMATES. LOWER MANHATTAN.
CLINT.
THINGS SEEM PRETTY QUIET. JOIN ME FOR A DRINK?
MY NEW "JARVIS" MAKES A DIRTY MARTINI THAT SPARKS.
SHE'S SEXY TOO. ASIAN. 23. 24. AND APPARENTLY DOESN'T MIND ME CALLING HER "JARVIS" EVEN THOUGH HER NAME IS LINDA.
HE WOULD'VE BEEN EIGHT TODAY.
MY SON...

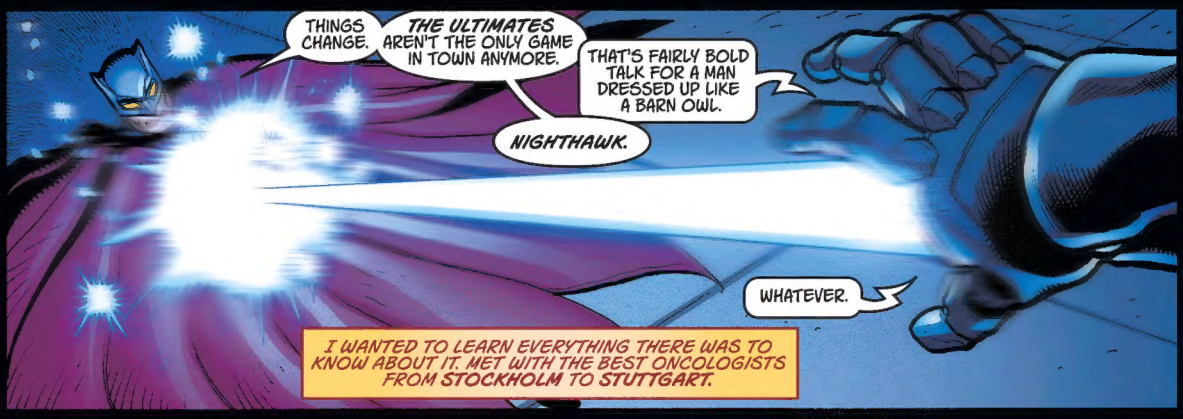
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT THAT DRINK?
TONY STARK. BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST. WHAT DO YOU GET THE MAN WHO HAS EVERYTHING?
SEE, THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US, TONY. YOU RUN AWAY FROM YOUR DEMONS WITH A COLD ONE --
-- I BURY MYSELF IN THE JOB.
HOW'S THAT WORKING OUT FOR YOU?
'BOUT AS WELL AS YOUR ALCOHOL PROBLEM.
YOU GOT ANY IDEA HOW SCREWED UP THIS TEAM IS RIGHT NOW?
I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA.
I SWEAR AN INOPERABLE BRAIN TUMOR WASN'T ON MY CHRISTMAS LIST.

SOME PEOPLE ACTUALLY SAID THAT I DESERVED IT. THAT GOD PUNISHES THE WICKED.
THE ULTIMATES IS WHAT I'VE GOT TO THINK ABOUT THESE DAYS. AND THAT'S NOT A GOOD THING.
I FIGURE WITH ALL THE DEATH WE'VE BEEN SOAKED IN, KILLING MYSELF ISN'T GOING TO SOLVE ANYTHING.
I MUST'VE SURVIVED FOR A REASON...
BUT WE'VE LOST QUICKSILVER, WANDA, HANK AND...
...JAN...
THE HULK IS NO GOOD TO US. THOR'S BEEN OFF THE GRID FOR MONTHS NOW...
...VALKYRIE WON'T SHUT UP ABOUT IT...
BRINGING IN ZARDA MAY BE THE WORST IDEA EVER. SHE'S @#$%^ NUTS.
AND I GOTTA BE HONEST WITH YOU. I'M NOT SO SURE BEING BACK HERE, UNDER S.H.I.E.L.D.'S THUMB --
WE'RE NOT UNDER ANYBODY'S THUMB.
THE DEAL I MADE WITH CAROL DANVERS IS THAT THE SECOND THEY THINK WE WORK FOR THEM, WE'RE OUT.
SHE ALREADY THINKS WE WORK FOR HER!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAD TO DO.
LOSING A BILLION DOLLARS BECAUSE THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.
EVERYTHING I HAD AT THE MANSION... MY HOME...GONE.
I'M BY NO MEANS BROKE, BUT IT'LL TAKE A WHILE TO GET IT ALL BACK...
I STILL BELIEVE IN THE ULTIMATES.
AND IF YOU THINK THAT MEANS I SOLD MY SOUL TO KEEP THAT DREAM ALIVE...
...SO BE IT.
OH. IF YOU SOLD YOUR SOUL, I'D KNOW ABOUT IT.
HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET UP HERE?
IS THAT WHAT CANCER IS? GOD'S PUNISHMENT?
NO WONDER I'VE NEVER GONE TO CHURCH...

I TRULY BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING HAS ITS PRICE.
NOT CANCER THOUGH. YOU CAN'T NEGOTIATE WITH IT. IT WON'T BE BOUGHT OFF.
DESPITE HAVING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS... THAT'S BILLIONS WITH A "B"...
...I COULDN'T BUY MYSELF A CURE.
EASY. WE CAME THROUGH HELL.
WE'RE THE DEFENDERS, HAWKEYE.
WE WILL GO ANYWHERE WE WANT.
SON OF SATAN
POWER MAN
BLACK KNIGHT
HELLCAT
NIGHTHAWK
I TOOK THE NEWS WELL. GOT DRUNK. STAYED DRUNK. PEOPLE BEGAN SAYING I WAS GOING TO DRINK MYSELF TO DEATH.
I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY...

THE DEFENDERS?
WHATEVER DAMAGE YOU MIGHT THINK ALCOHOL DOES TO YOUR BODY, IT'S GOT NOTHING ON CHEMOTHERAPY.

YOU'RE THOSE LOSERS HANK PYM WAS HANGING OUT WITH?
LOSERS? GOT ME SOME SWEET STEEL SKIN NOW. BULLETPROOF AND EVERYTHING.


THINGS CHANGE.
THE ULTIMATES AREN'T THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN ANYMORE.
THAT'S FAIRLY BOLD TALK FOR A MAN DRESSED UP LIKE A BARN OWL.
NIGHTHAWK.
WHATEVER.
I WANTED TO LEARN EVERYTHING THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT IT. MET WITH THE BEST ONCOLOGISTS FROM STOCKHOLM TO STUTTGART.

WHY SHOULD YOU GUYS GET TO HAVE ALL THE FUN?
TONY! GET THIS COW OFF ME!

I'VE GOT YOU COVERED, HELLCAT.
THIS TEAM LOOKS OUT FOR EACH OTHER.
BUT TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING AND EXPERIENCING IT?
TWO DIFFERENT ANIMALS.
MINE.
FLEW OUT TO LOS ANGELES. HAD DINNER WITH SCARLETT, OF COURSE.
THEN OFF TO A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.
MET A REMARKABLE YOUNG MAN NAMED SAM.

HE TOLD ME CHEMO WAS LIKE EATING AT A NEW CHINESE RESTAURANT AND GETTING THE WORST FOOD POISONING YOU COULD IMAGINE.
THIS ISN'T A GAME WHAT WE DO.
GHNN
KNIGHT! GIMME A HAND HERE!
WHAT IS IT YOU PEOPLE WANT?
UP ALL NIGHT VOMITING. LIKE GASOLINE IN YOUR ARTERIES.
YOU DON'T GET TO ASK THE QUESTIONS, STARK.
WE DON'T WORK FOR YOU.
OKAY. THAT'S ENOUGH OF THIS.
ARRRGHHH
RETRO ROCKETS ENGAGED.
HEY.
AND JUST WHEN YOU'RE FEELING BETTER...
...YOU GO BACK TO THAT SAME CHINESE RESTAURANT AND ORDER THE SAME DAMN THING.
YEEECH
'BOUT TIME.

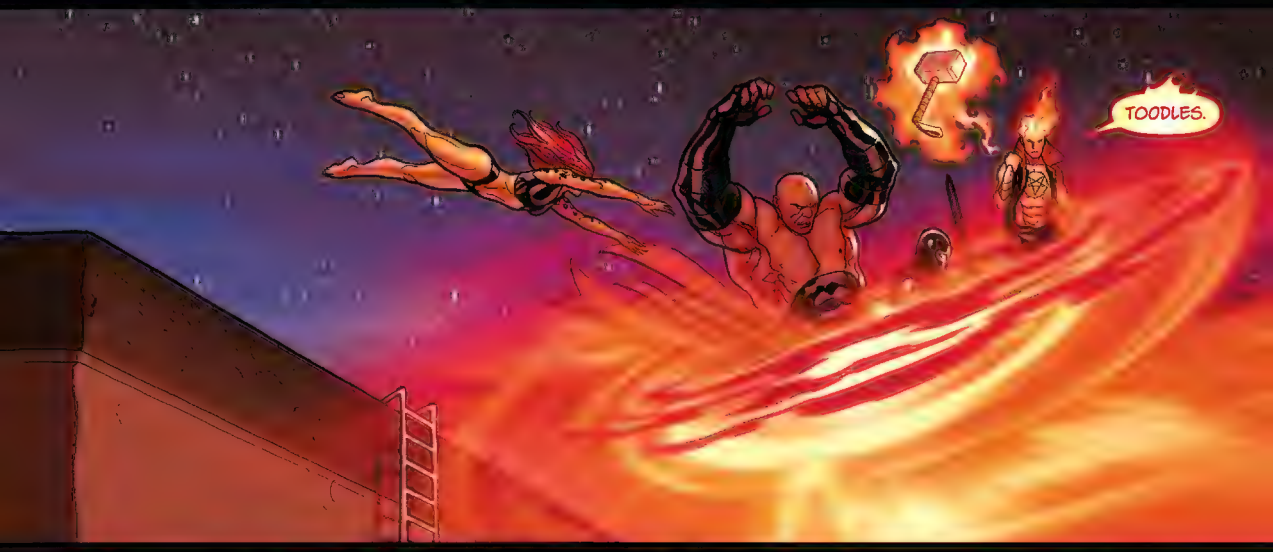
GET OFF MY ROOF.
THREE YEARS OF TREATMENT AND SAM DIED ANYWAY.
THAT'S WHEN I FIRST HAD THE IDEA FOR THE ULTIMATES.

IF I COULDN'T SAVE MY OWN LIFE, MAYBE I COULD SAVE THE WORLD.
LOFTY AMBITIONS AND I HAVE ALWAYS GOTTEN ALONG.
CAPTAIN, I'LL TAKE THIS BLACK HULK.
POWER MAN AIN'T NO HULK, WOMAN.
WHOEVER THESE PEOPLE ARE, ZARDA --
-- THEY'VE LOST THEIR CHANCE TO SURRENDER.
SURRENDER? YOU HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN HOW AWESOME WE CAN BE.
DON'T PLAN TO.
SHOULD'VE.
I SO ROCK.
IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE FOR THIS NOW --
-- BUT WE IDOLIZED YOU.
AND DEDICATING A BLOG TO US DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU?

THE ULTIMATES SAVED THE WORLD AND...
DAIMON...?
OH, C'MON, BARBARA. YOU CAN'T BE THAT SURPRISED.
"BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR..."
UGH.
GOTTA WRAP THIS UP NOW.
I'LL NEVER GO BACK WITH YOU!
...BECAUSE GOD HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR AND I DON'T GET THE JOKE...

...MY CANCER WENT INTO REMISSION.
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT COMING HERE FOR YOU?

DEFENDERS! TIME TO GO!


TOODLES.

WHAT THE @#$% WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!
THEY TOOK MJOLNIR...

...AND WITH IT MY ONLY CHANCE TO RESCUE THOR...

VALHALLA. MYTHICAL LAND OF THE FALLEN. TIME UNKNOWN.
HELA!
MISTRESS OF THE DAMNED.
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO BE RELEASED FROM YOUR BOND?
SO I CAN RETURN TO EARTH.
GET BACK TO MY LIFE...
TO MY LOVE...
...VALKYRIE.
MY, I HAVE GROWN TIRED OF THAT NAME.
AS IT TURNS OUT, THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO FOR ME, THOR.
NAME IT.
AFTER BEING THE SOLE RULER IN VALHALLA FOR AN UNTOLD TIME --
-- I WISH FOR THERE TO BE AN HEIR TO THE THRONE.

I WANT A SON.
YOU GIVE ME WHAT I WANT --
-- AND I WILL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOUR HEART DESIRES...

THE TRISKELION.

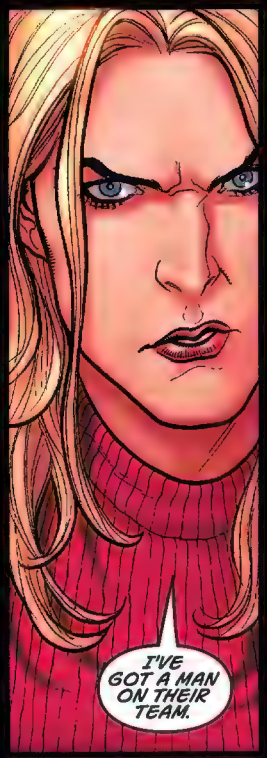
SEEMED LIKE A PERFECTLY GOOD TIME TO FALL IN LOVE.

NATASHA ROMANOVA WAS EVERYTHING A MODERN MAN COULD WANT. SMART. AMBITIOUS. AS I ONCE SAID, SHE WAS ME WITH MAGNIFICENT BREASTS.

SHE ALSO LIVED UP TO HER NAME "THE BLACK WIDOW" IN EVERY WAY.

I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T DOING *THIS* ANYMORE, *TONY.*

Move over Brangelina. Sorry Twlighters. And Beckams can back across the pond. New York City is wild about the newest hottest couple around and their names are Sha-Zar and Natasha. Along with their oh too adorable sabretooth tigers (both called Zabu!) these former Savage Landers are the youngest (and sexiest) members of Tony Stark's New Ultimates. Tony who...?



I WAS SO BLINDED BY WHAT I THOUGHT WAS GOING TO BE A SUSTAINABLE HAPPINESS --
-- IT WAS TOO LATE BEFORE I FOUND OUT WHAT A MURDERING TRAITOROUS BITCH SHE REALLY WAS.
WAIT. WHAT...?
HELLSTROM. THE MAGICIAN WITH THE RED FIRE? SON OF SATAN GETUP?
HE'S AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
SO... HE WENT THROUGH THE PROGRAM? IS THAT HOW HE DID WHAT HE DID?
WE DON'T KNOW. ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO HELLSTROM AND ALL THOSE OTHER "DEFENDERS" WENT OFF THE GRID.
TONIGHT THEY TURN UP AND THEY'RE CLASS 10 SUPER-SOLDIERS.
THESE WERE NORMAL GUYS.
SHE KILLED JARVIS. SLAUGHTERED HAWKEYE'S FAMILY. KIDS. SOLD US ALL OUT AND PINNED IT NEATLY ON CAPTAIN AMERICA.
WHY DOES S.H.I.E.L.D. HAVE AN INSIDE MAN WITH A GROUP OF "NORMAL GUYS"?
BECAUSE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENED WITH MUTANTS IN THE COUNTRY? I NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON ALL YOU FREAKS.
THE CANCER MAY HAVE GONE AFTER MY BRAIN...
...BUT THE BLACK WIDOW BROKE MY HEART.

FREAKS.
IS THAT HOW YOU SEE THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO FOUGHT MAGNETO TO SAVE THIS PLANET?
TONY. IT WAS JUST AN EXPRESSION --
EXPRESS THIS.
I WANT THAT DOSSIER ON THE DEFENDERS ON MY DESK BEFORE SUN-UP. OR I'LL TEAR THIS BUILDING APART AND SHAKE IT OUT MYSELF.
I THINK I TOOK NATASHA'S BETRAYAL WELL. GOT DRUNK. STAYED DRUNK. PEOPLE STARTED SAYING I WAS GOING TO DRINK MYSELF TO DEATH AGAIN.
I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY.
STARK. GO GET A VODKA OR TAKE A SHOWER OR DO WHAT IT IS YOU DO TO COOL OFF. YOU'RE STEPPING ON A VERY THIN LINE!

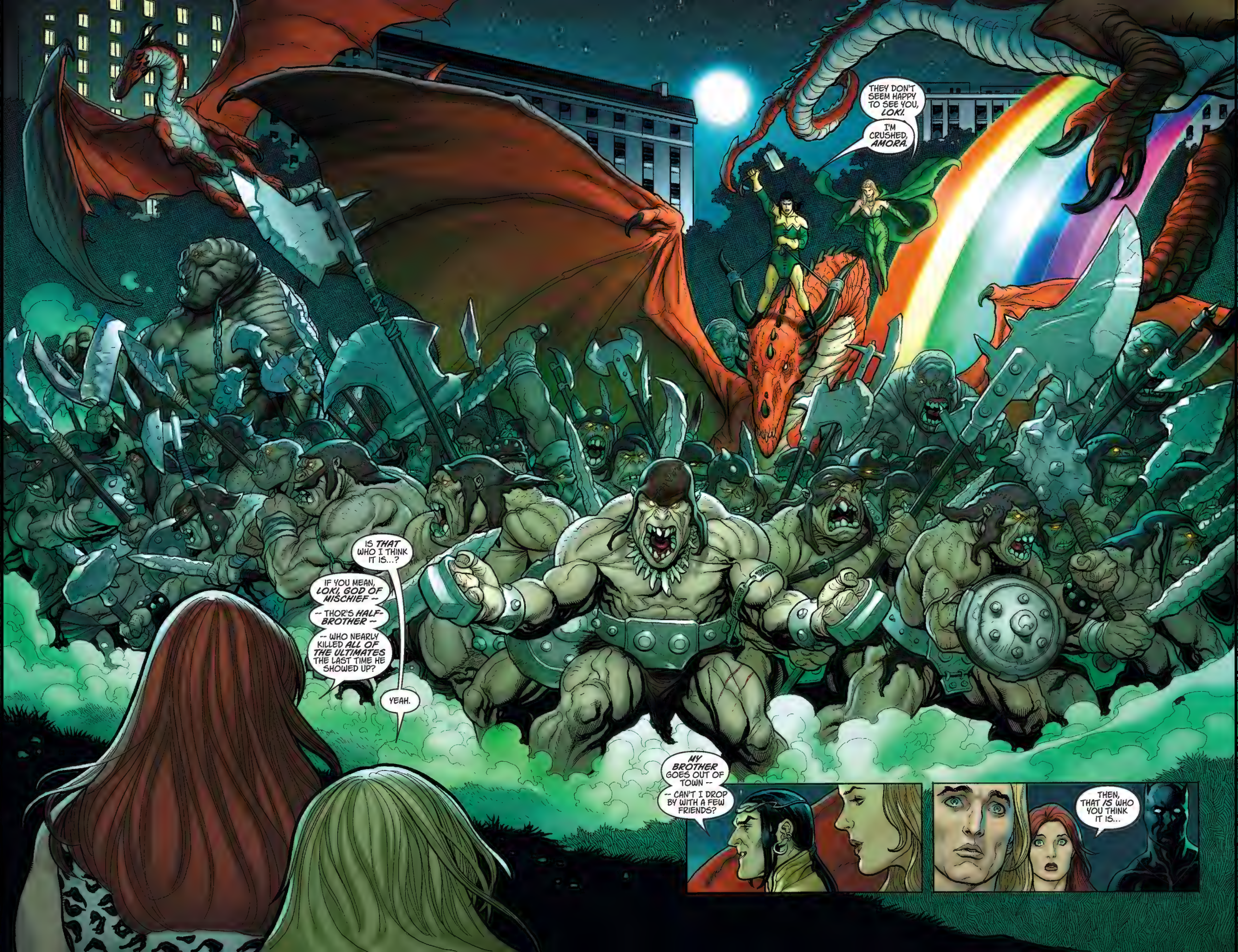
SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE ABOUT THOSE TWO.
HOW SO...?
THEY HATE EACH OTHER.
HMM. THAT'S NOT WHAT I SEE.

I THINK THEY'RE DOING MORE THAN ARGUING WITH THEIR FREE TIME.
AND IF YOU FOLLOW ME BACK TO MY QUARTERS, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW I SEE IT.
AND HOW DO YOU SEE IT, ZARDA?

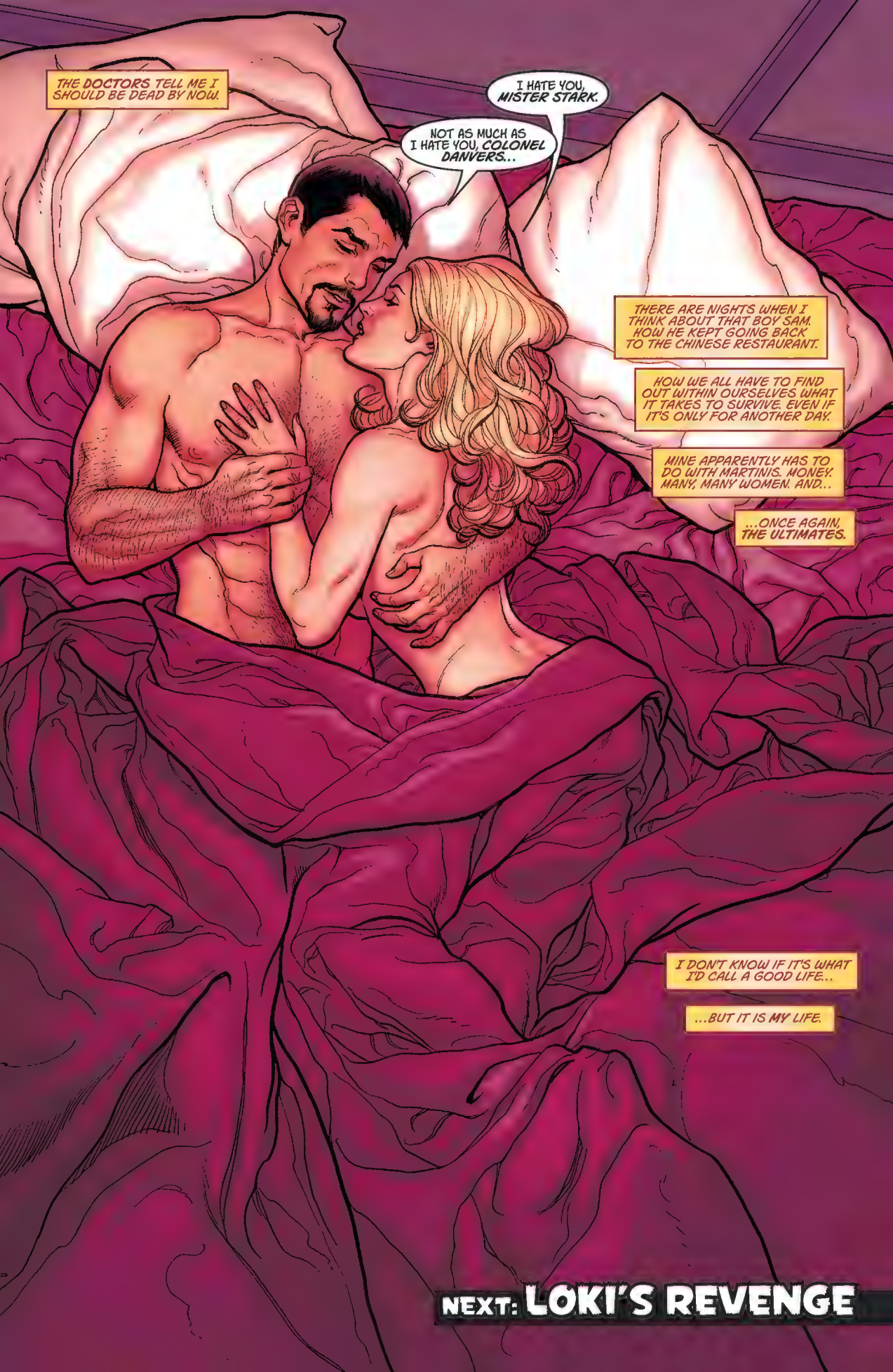
IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO YOU CALLED ME A "COWARD."
THEN HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE ME A LIAR.

I'M GOING TO TALK TO VALKYRIE. SHE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE DEFENDERS THAN SHE'S LETTING ON...

CENTRAL PARK. NEW YORK CITY.
IT WAS TIME FOR A CHANGE. THE ULTIMATES HAD BEEN OVERSEEN BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.
NICK FURY DRAGGED US INTO A CESSPOOL OF POLITICAL HOT WATER FOR THE LAST TIME.
I TOOK THE TEAM UNDER MY OWN WING. FUNDED THEM. USED MY HOUSE AS THEIR BASE OF OPERATIONS.
I WASN'T GOING TO LET ANYTHING -- NOT THE CANCER -- THE GOVERNMENT -- OR A WOMAN -- TAKE CONTROL OF MY LIFE.
IT FELT GOOD. IT FELT...RIGHT.
AMAZING HOW WELL T'CHALLA GETS ALONG WITH THOSE CATS.
ANY CHANCE TO RELAX -- AWAY FROM ALL THOSE PHOTOGRAPHERS -- I'LL TAKE, SHANNA.
SHUT UP. WE COULD BE STUCK BACK IN THE SAVAGE LAND LOOKING FOR BUGS TO EAT.
YOU WANTED TO BE A "SOMEBODY," KA-ZAR --
NOT LIKE THIS I DIDN'T...
WHY'S IT SUDDENLY FREEZING COLD...?


THEY DON'T SEEM HAPPY TO SEE YOU, LOKI.
I'M CRUSHED, AMORA.
IS THAT WHO I THINK IT IS...?
IF YOU MEAN, LOKI, GOD OF MISCHIEF --
-- THOR'S HALF-BROTHER --
-- WHO NEARLY KILLED ALL OF THE ULTIMATES THE LAST TIME HE SHOWED UP?
YEAH.
MY BROTHER GOES OUT OF TOWN --
-- CAN'T I DROP BY WITH A FEW FRIENDS?
THEN, THAT IS WHO YOU THINK IT IS...

EIGHT MONTHS AGO, MAGNETO TORE THE EARTH APART. MILLIONS DIED. COUNTRIES CRUMBLED.
ON THE ULTIMATES ALONE WE LOST GIANT MAN, THE WASP AND THOR. THEY WERE MORE THAN HEROES TO ME. THEY WERE MY FRIENDS.
I HAVE TO GO BACK TO WORK...
...WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I DON'T?
IN THE LAST HOUR OF THE WAR, THAT MUTANT BASTARD OVERRODE MY IRON MAN ARMOR AND...
...AND I KILLED WOLVERINE.
GOD MUST'VE BEEN LAUGHING UP A STORM.
I HANDLED IT BADLY. IT DIDN'T MATTER HOW MUCH I DRANK, I COULDN'T STAY DRUNK ENOUGH. PEOPLE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT ME.
THEY ONLY TOOK PITY.
I HATED THAT MORE THAN ANYTHING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'D DO IF THEY FOUND OUT YOU AND I WERE... INVOLVED?
I'D MAKE THEM PROVE IT.
YOU'RE NOT STILL RECORDING YOUR BEDROOM ANTICS, ARE YOU?
NO.
ARE YOU?
TOUCHÉ.
CLASSIFIED


THE DOCTORS TELL ME I SHOULD BE DEAD BY NOW.
I HATE YOU, MISTER STARK.
NOT AS MUCH AS I HATE YOU, COLONEL DANVERS...
THERE ARE NIGHTS WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT BOY SAM. HOW HE KEPT GOING BACK TO THE CHINESE RESTAURANT.
HOW WE ALL HAVE TO FIND OUT WITHIN OURSELVES WHAT IT TAKES TO SURVIVE. EVEN IF IT'S ONLY FOR ANOTHER DAY.
MINE APPARENTLY HAS TO DO WITH MARTINIS. MONEY. MANY, MANY WOMEN. AND...
...ONCE AGAIN, THE ULTIMATES.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S WHAT I'D CALL A GOOD LIFE...
...BUT IT IS MY LIFE.
NEXT: LOKI'S REVENGE

MARVEL

NEW ULTIMATES

LOEB • CHO

ISSUE 2

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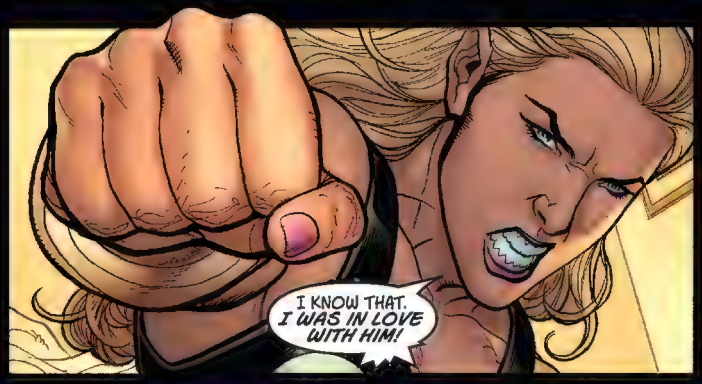
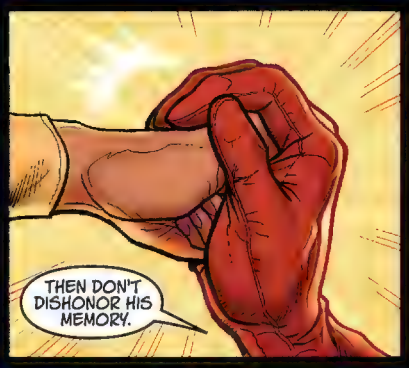
VALKYRIE'S QUARTERS.
THE TRISKELION.
S.H.I.E.L.D. BASE OF OPERATIONS.
HOME OF THE NEW ULTIMATES.
LOWER MANHATTAN.
LOOK AT ME.
ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNIZABLE FACES IN THE WORLD.
BUT BEHIND THIS MASK NOBODY KNOWS STEVE ROGERS...
...INCLUDING MYSELF...
I WANT YOU...
...GONE.

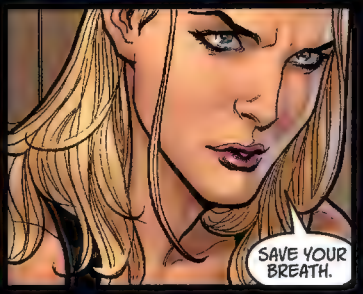
YOU CAN'T GET RID OF ME JUST LIKE THAT.
I CAN. AND I WILL.
UNLESS YOU START TELLING ME THE TRUTH.
I GREW UP IN THE STREETS NOT FAR FROM HERE. ONLY COMPARED TO TODAY, IT MIGHT AS WELL BE A MILLION MILES AWAY.
WE HAD NO iPAD. NO iPOD. NO iANYTHING.
IN FACT, THE CLOSEST TELEPHONE WAS DOWN THE BLOCK IN ED CARLMAN'S DRUGSTORE ON THE CORNER.
AND NO ONE COMPLAINED THAT LIFE WAS DOWNLOADING TOO SLOWLY.
THOSE SO-CALLED "DEFENDERS" SHOWED UP HERE WITH POWERS AND ABILITIES.
WITH A CLEAR MISSION.
TO STEAL THOR'S HAMMER.
AND THEY KNEW YOU, VALKYRIE.
I ALREADY EXPLAINED THAT.
THEY WERE MY FRIENDS. WE USED TO...PRETEND WE WERE HEROES.
WE WANTED TO BE LIKE THE ULTIMATES IN THE WORST WAY.
THEN WE MET HANK PYM. GIANT MAN. OR ANT MAN. OR YELLOWJACKET. WHATEVER.
HE GAVE US ALL SOMETHING. A SHOT OF SOMETHING.
HE SAID IT WAS LIKE YOUR SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM. ONLY HE HAD MADE IT HIMSELF.
AND WE DIDN'T HAVE TO PRETEND ANYMORE.
YOU'RE LYING.
WITH PYM DEAD, IT MAKES YOUR LIE ONLY WORSE.
IF THOR WERE HERE, YOU'D NEVER SPEAK TO ME LIKE THIS.
THOR CAN'T BE HERE...
...BECAUSE HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR YOU.

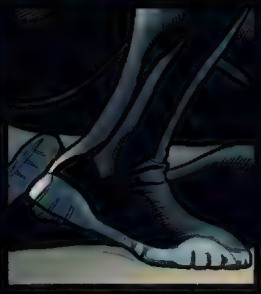

I KNOW THAT. I WAS IN LOVE WITH HIM!


THEN DON'T DISHONOR HIS MEMORY.

THIS TEAM HAS BEEN BETRAYED BEFORE AND I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

I DON'T LIKE HITTING A GIRL --
-- BUT IF I HAVE TO, I WILL TO GET THE REAL STORY.


SAVE YOUR BREATH.



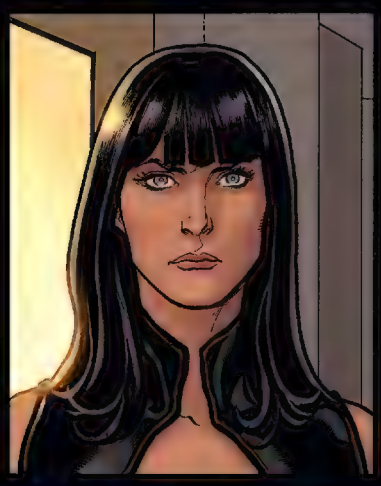
VALKYRIE!
I WOKE UP SIXTY-SOMETHING YEARS IN THE FUTURE.
WITHOUT MY FRIENDS. WITHOUT MY HOME. WITHOUT...MY WORLD.

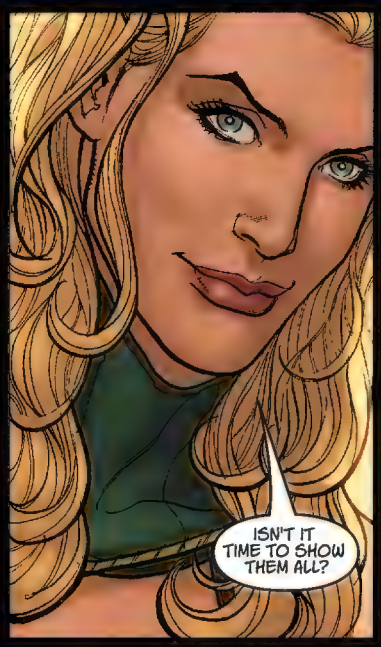
I WAS NAMED CAPTAIN AMERICA IN WORLD WAR II.
GIVEN AN UNBREAKABLE SHIELD. THE ONLY THING I HAVE LEFT FROM THOSE DAYS.
WELL DONE, CAPTAIN.
IS THAT HOW YOU HANDLE AN INTERROGATION?
BY THROWING THE SUSPECT OUT THE WINDOW?
SHE JUMPED.
SHE WAS GUILTY AND SHE JUMPED KNOWING SHE'D EASILY SURVIVE THE FALL.
ALTHOUGH I CAN'T THINK OF A SINGLE REASON WHY I'D HAVE TO EXPLAIN MY ACTIONS TO YOU, ZARDA.
I DEFENDED THIS COUNTRY FROM THE WORST KIND OF EVIL WE'D EVER KNOWN.
NOW...NOW I FEEL LIKE I DEFEND MYSELF MORE THAN ANYONE.

THERE'S NO ONE TO TALK ABOUT THIS WITH. NOT THAT ANYBODY WOULD UNDERSTAND. WHO COULD?
BUCKY -- MY SIDEKICK DURING THE WAR IS OLD ENOUGH TO BE MY GRANDFATHER.
AND JAN... THE WASP...
JAN'S GONE TOO.

WHY DO YOU LET HIM SPEAK TO YOU LIKE THAT?
AND WHO ARE YOU TO SPEAK TO ME AT ALL?

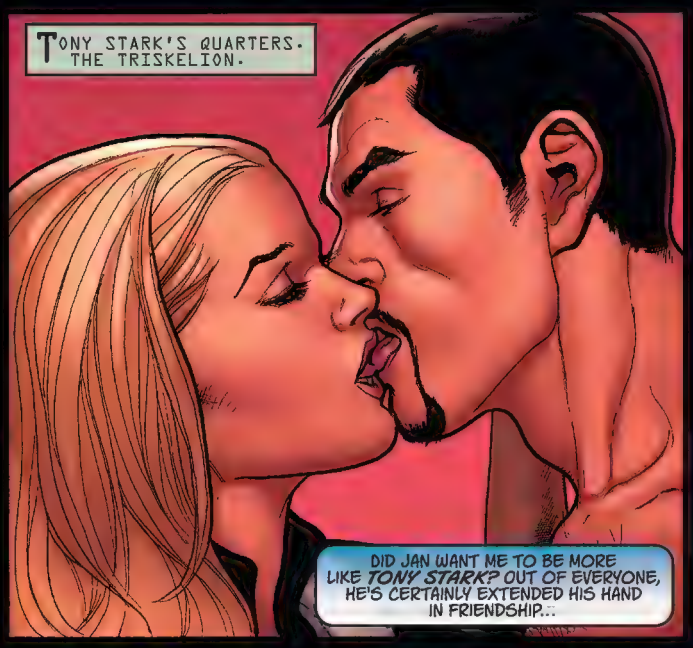
SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS "WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE" BETTER THAN ANYONE YOU'VE MET DURING YOUR STAY HERE.
YOU PROMISED THE MAN YOU LOVED THAT YOU WOULD BABYSIT THIS PLANET TO PROTECT YOUR OWN.
IN RETURN, DO THESE PEOPLE RESPECT YOU?
DO THEY TREAT YOU LIKE THE GODDESS YOU ARE?

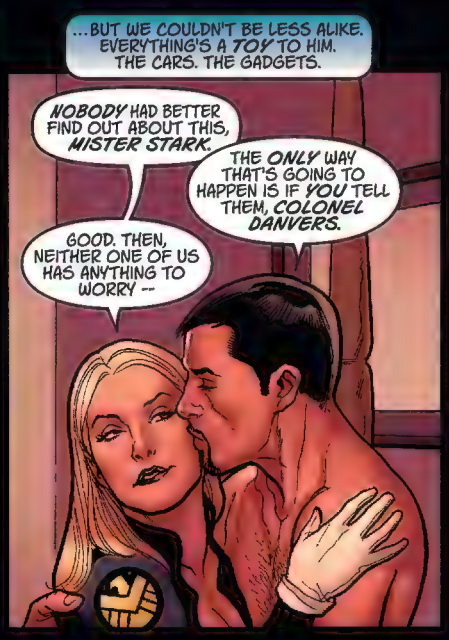



ISN'T IT TIME TO SHOW THEM ALL?

THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, SHANNA!
NOT MARCHING AROUND WITH SHOPPING BAGS ON ONE SIDE --
-- AND THOSE IDIOT PAPARAZZI ON THE OTHER.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, KA-ZAR.
SIGH. YOU CAN TAKE THE BOY OUT OF THE SAVAGE LAND...
FIFTH AVENUE. OFF CENTRAL PARK. NEW YORK CITY.
I TRIED TO MAKE IT WORK WITH JAN. I HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT.
THERE WERE JUST TOO MANY THINGS ABOUT EACH OTHER THAT WE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
HALF THE TIME I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT. FEELINGS. COMMITMENTS.
I REMEMBER WHEN A DATE WAS AS SIMPLE AS HOLDING HANDS AND WALKING THROUGH THE PARK.

GROAARRR
ONWARD, WARRIORS! WHATEVER YOU KILL, WE EAT!
YOU DARE TAKE MY WEAPON?!
GRRRRR
I ALMOST ENVY *THE PANTHER*. NOT BEING *ABLE* TO SPEAK MEANS YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO...


TONY STARK'S QUARTERS. THE TRISKELION.
DID JAN WANT ME TO BE MORE LIKE TONY STARK? OUT OF EVERYONE, HE'S CERTAINLY EXTENDED HIS HAND IN FRIENDSHIP...

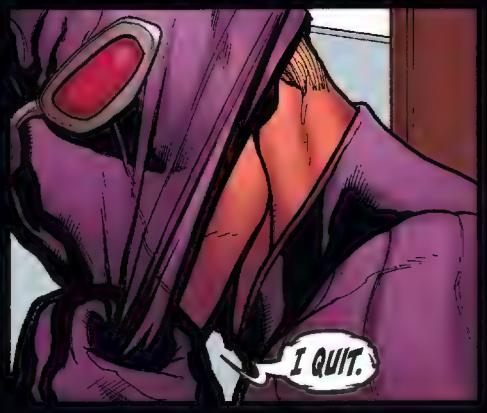

...BUT WE COULDN'T BE LESS ALIKE. EVERYTHING'S A TOY TO HIM. THE CARS. THE GADGETS.
NOBODY HAD BETTER FIND OUT ABOUT THIS, MISTER STARK.
THE ONLY WAY THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IS IF YOU TELL THEM, COLONEL DANVERS.
GOOD. THEN, NEITHER ONE OF US HAS ANYTHING TO WORRY --

EVEN HIS WOMEN.
SUIT UP, TONY --
-- HALF OF MIDTOWN IS BEING OVERRUN BY --

OH, @#$%.

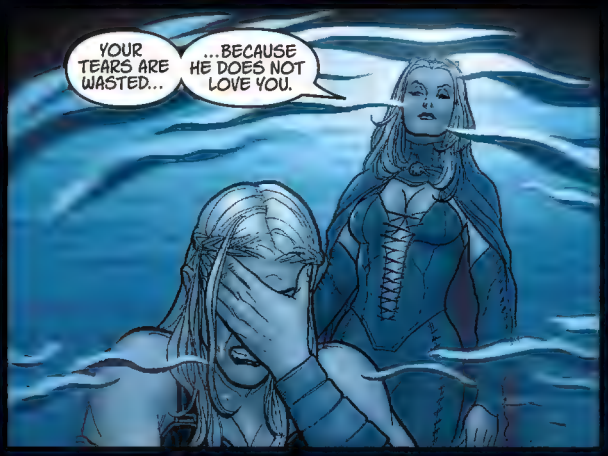
EVER HEAR OF KNOCKING, BARTON?

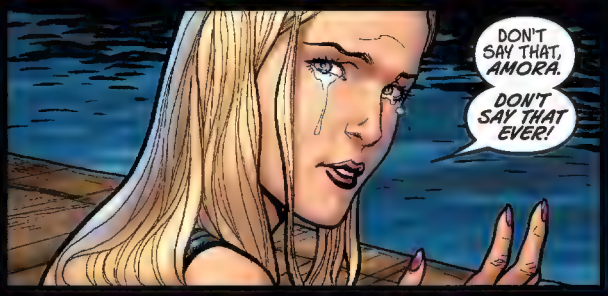
CAN'T YOU KEEP YOUR PANTS ZIPPED FOR FIVE MINUTES?
AND WITH DANVERS? THE ICE QUEEN?!
BUTT OUT, CLINT. WHAT I DO IN MY PRIVATE LIFE IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
FINE. BUT IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE --
-- I WON'T WORK FOR THAT BITCH. AND YOU SNORKELING HER IS THE LAST STRAW.
WHEN THIS MISSION IS OVER --


I QUIT.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I WONDER IF THAT'S THE SORT OF MAN I'LL BECOME IF I STAY WITH THE TEAM...
DAMMIT, CAROL. YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH --
WHY DO YOU CARE WHAT ANYONE ELSE THINKS?
WHO ARE YOU AND HOW'D YOU GET ACCESS TO THIS AREA?
YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT WITH ME.
THE HELL I DON'T.
GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES AND PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD.
NOW.
CAROL. I WOULDN'T GET DOWN ON MY KNEES FOR ANYONE. MAN. OR WOMAN.
WHY DON'T YOU PUT THE GUN DOWN INSTEAD?
GOOD GIRL. AFTER ALL, I ONLY CAME TO TALK.
AND TO MAKE A SUGGESTION...

LIBERTY ISLAND. OFF MANHATTAN.


YOUR TEARS ARE WASTED...
...BECAUSE HE DOES NOT LOVE YOU.


DON'T SAY THAT, AMORA.
DON'T SAY THAT EVER!

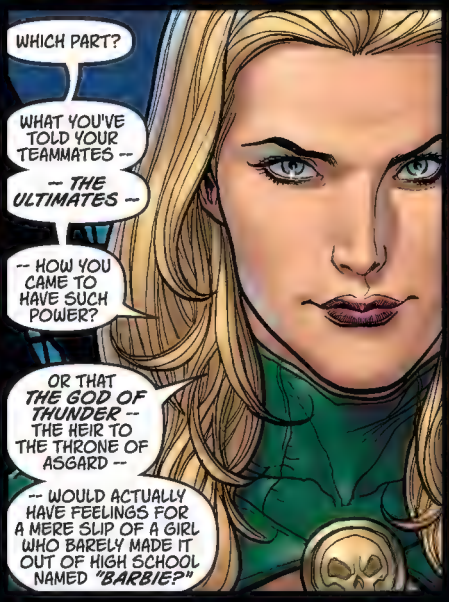
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO.
DESPITE HAVING HELPED YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS --
-- WHY IS IT YOU STILL WON'T BELIEVE IN ME?

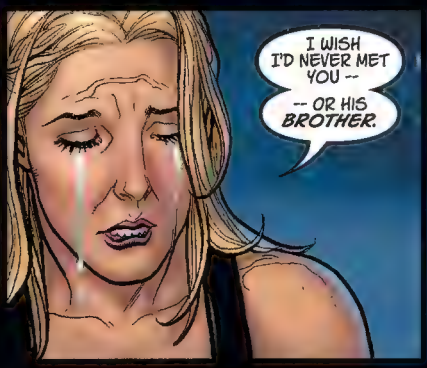
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER THAT.
BUT, YOU DO HAVE TO SEE FOR YOURSELF...

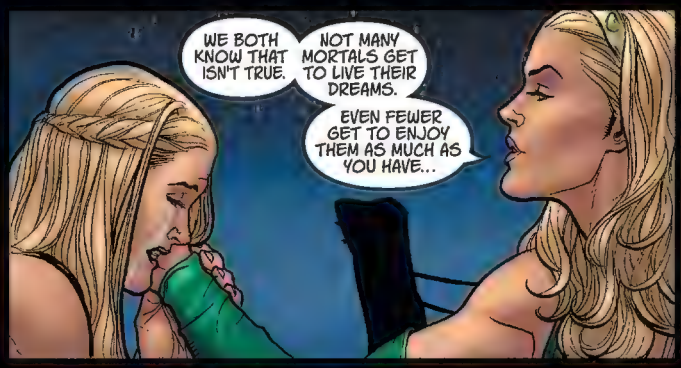
MAYBE THAT'S THE MOST CONFUSING PART. I FEEL LIKE I'M DOING EXACTLY WHAT I WAS DOING BACK IN THE DAY. FIGHTING JUST AS HARD. TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
BUT THE WORLD SEEMS HELL BENT ON BRINGING DOWN OUR HEROES.
...THOR...

AS IF PEOPLE CAN FEEL BETTER ABOUT THEMSELVES BY HURTING THE VERY FOLKS THEY ONCE RESPECTED.
APPARENTLY, HIS SACRIFICE WASN'T ALL THAT...
...TERRIBLE.

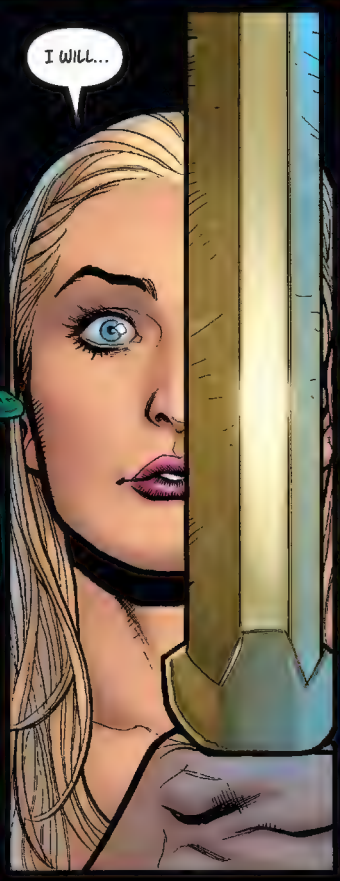
THAT'S A LIE!


WHICH PART?
WHAT YOU'VE TOLD YOUR TEAMMATES --
-- THE ULTIMATES --
-- HOW YOU CAME TO HAVE SUCH POWER?
OR THAT THE GOD OF THUNDER -- THE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ASGARD --
-- WOULD ACTUALLY HAVE FEELINGS FOR A MERE SLIP OF A GIRL WHO BARELY MADE IT OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL NAMED "BARBIE?"


I WISH I'D NEVER MET YOU --
-- OR HIS BROTHER.


WE BOTH KNOW THAT ISN'T TRUE.
NOT MANY MORTALS GET TO LIVE THEIR DREAMS.
EVEN FEWER GET TO ENJOY THEM AS MUCH AS YOU HAVE...

THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO LIVE UP TO YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN.
TAKE YOUR SWORD.
EMBRACE YOUR DESTINY.
LET YOUR TRUE POWER COME TO YOU.


I WILL...

YES!

EVEN I GOT CAUGHT UP IN IT.
I FOUGHT SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THOR. BUT WHEN IT CAME TO BELIEVING IN HIM...
...I FELL SHORT.

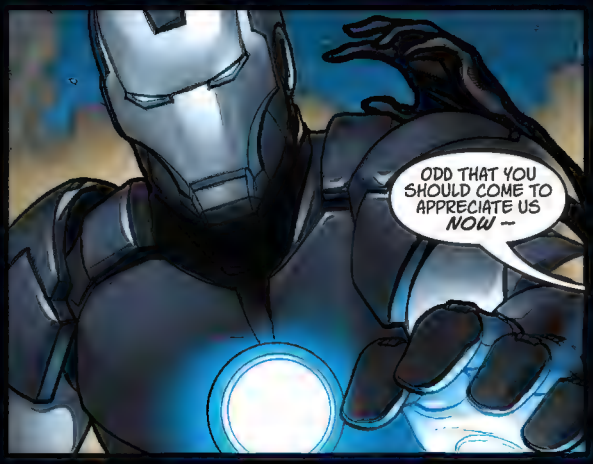
AND NOW HE'S GONE TOO.
ASGARD IS THE EASY ANSWER.
MY GUESS IS WITHOUT *THOR* HERE, THEY'RE TAKING WHATEVER THEY WANT.
UNBELIEVABLE.
AFTER EVERYTHING THIS CITY WENT THROUGH BECAUSE OF *MAGNETO* AND NOW *THIS*?!
WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY ALL COMING FROM?
WE DON'T NEED THOR.
THIS IS WHERE WE HOLD THE LINE.
AND KICK THEM ALL THE WAY BACK UP THE RAINBOW BRIDGE.
CHO

IS THAT THE PRICE FOR GOING THROUGH THE SUPER-SOLDIER PROGRAM?
THAT EVERYONE I KNOW WILL DIE OFF BEFORE ME?
YOU HAVE TO ADMIT --
-- THEY LIKE TO MAKE WAR.
ARE YOU AT ALL CONCERNED THAT THOR WILL RETURN, LOKI?
SIRE,
CONCERNED...?
I'M COUNTING ON IT.

NOT JUST SOLDIERS IN BATTLE.
HOW MANY OF THESE MONKEYS ARE THERE?
YOU TAKE OUT TWO AND FOUR MORE POP UP.

OR TEAMMATES IN THE FIELD.
I'M BETTING THERE'S A GENERAL OR A COMMANDER BEHIND THIS --
-- WE FIND THAT PERSON AND WE BRING IT ALL DOWN.

BUT LOVED ONES WHO WILL SIMPLY GROW TOO OLD...
HAVE YOU SEEN VALKYRIE AND ZARDA?
WE COULD USE THE EXTRA MUSCLE --


ODD THAT YOU SHOULD COME TO APPRECIATE US NOW --

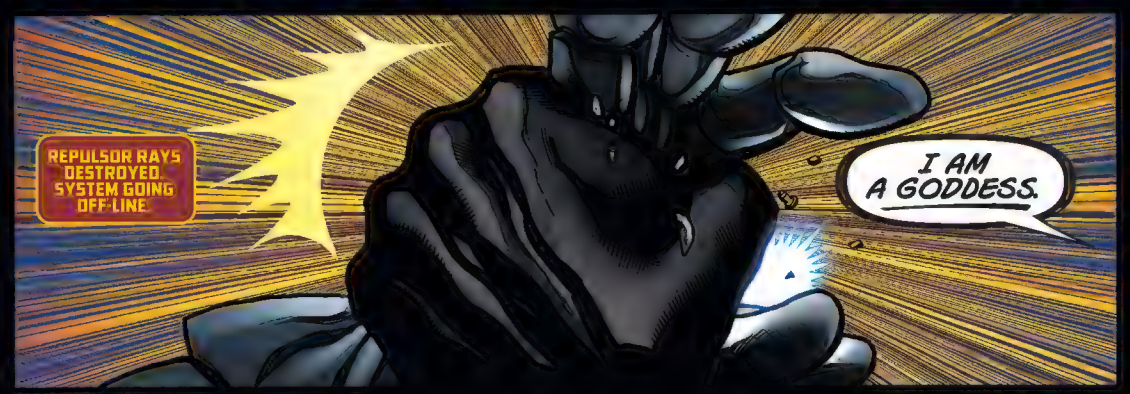
-URK-
-- WHEN YOU NEVER HAVE BEFORE.

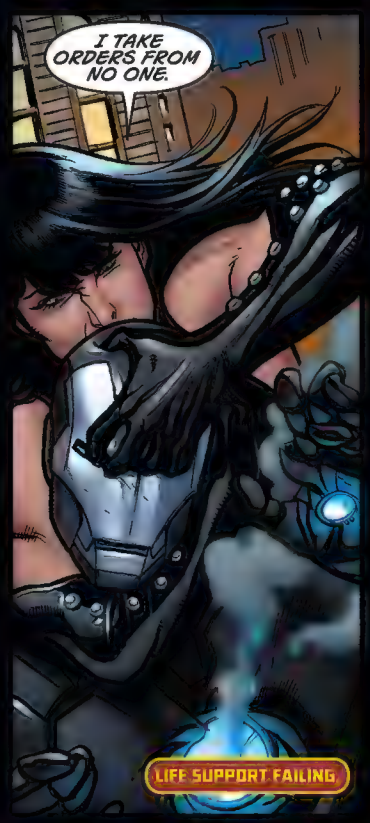
ZARDA! WHAT'RE YOU DO:GGNNNGH:?

WHAT I SHOULD'VE DONE MONTHS AGO.

WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME? OUT OF PLACE? OUT OF TIME...

WARNING. OUTER SHELL COMPROMISED. INITIATING REPAIRS.





I WANT YOU GONE.
US
ALONG THE WAY TO BECOMING A "LIVING LEGEND," I LOST THE MAN I WAS.

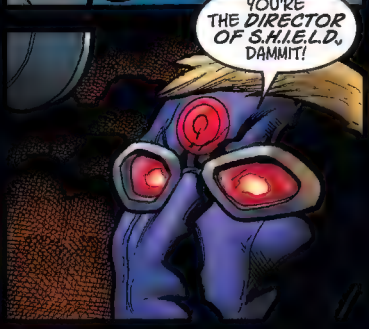
NO...
STEVE ROGERS DIED THE NIGHT CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS BORN.
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
YOU HUMILIATED ME.
TREATED ME LIKE I WAS NOTHING.
UGHN!
CAP!
NOT SO COCKY NOW, BARTON.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE GIVEN IT SOME THOUGHT BEFORE YOU DISMISSED ME AS "THAT BITCH."

YOU'RE RIGHT.
I MEANT "THAT CRAZY BITCH."

BEG FOR YOUR LIFE.
LISTEN TO ME, DANVERS. I DON'T LIKE YOU, YOU DON'T LIKE ME, WHO CARES?
BUT, YOU, VALKYRIE AND ZARDA DON'T JUST SHOW UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THINGS --
-- WITHOUT MAKING YOU WONDER WHY!

BEG.


YOU'RE THE DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D., DAMMIT!

AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT.

NOW.
STEP TWO.
IF ALL I HAVE LEFT IS A *SHIELD* THAT'S NOW SHATTERED INTO PIECES...
...WHO IS CAPTAIN AMERICA...?
TO BE CONTINUED...
CHO

MARVEL

NEW ULTIMATES

LOEB • CHO

ISSUE 3

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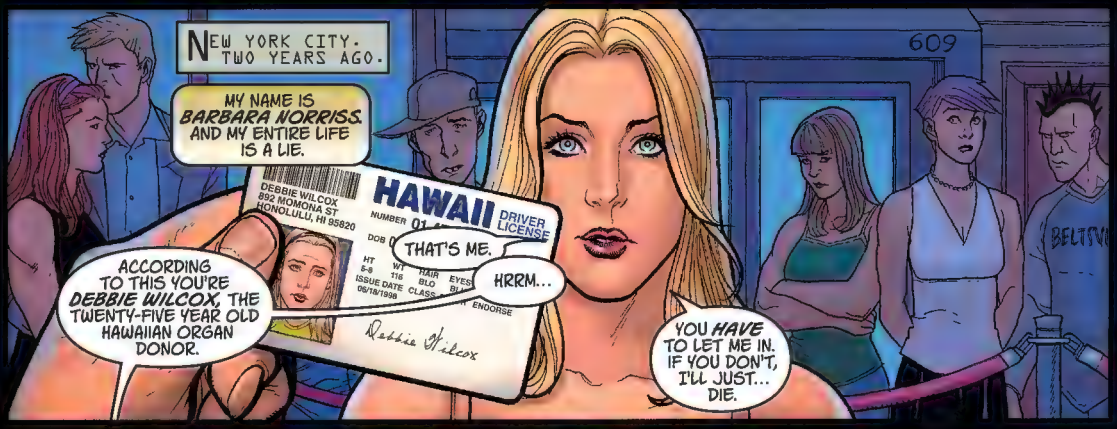
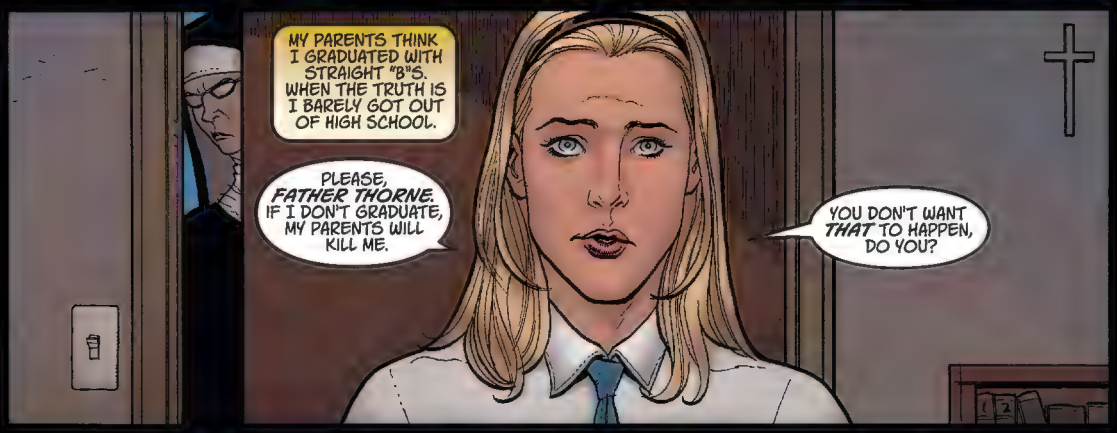
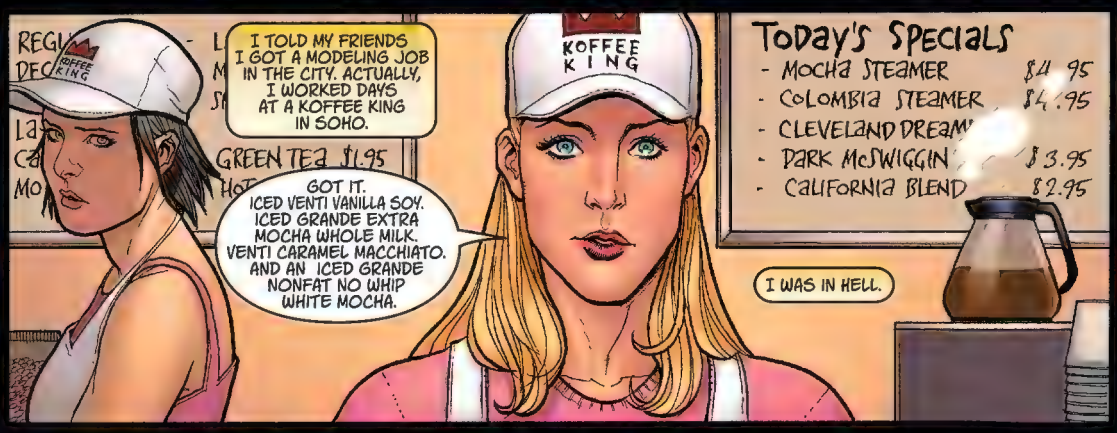
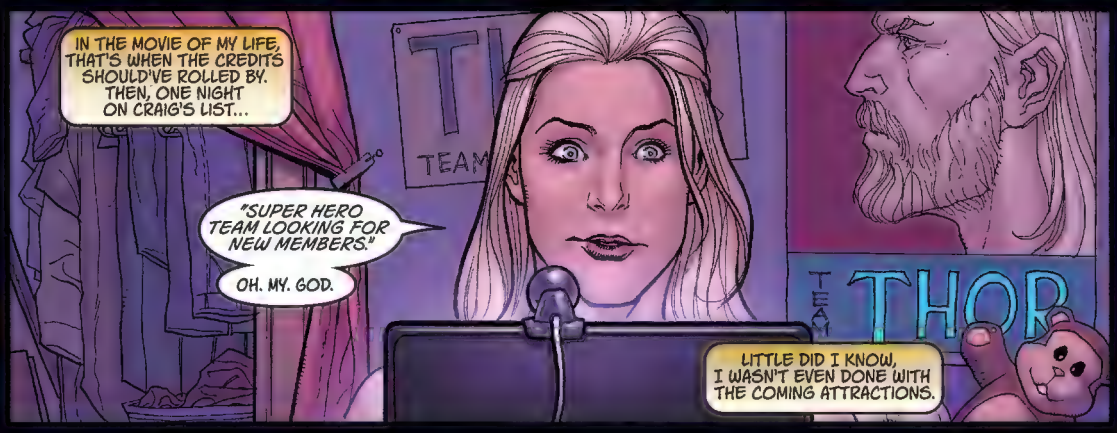
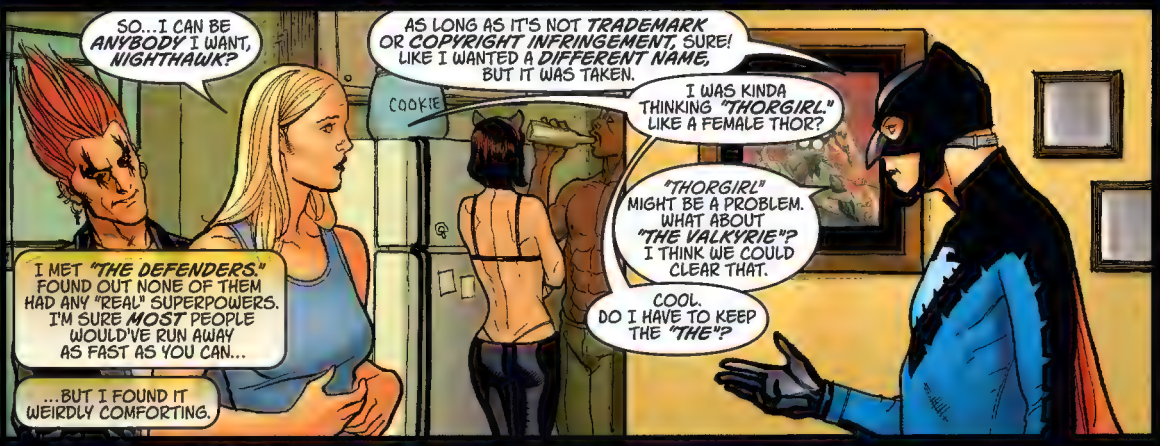

NEW YORK CITY. TWO YEARS AGO.
MY NAME IS BARBARA NORRISS. AND MY ENTIRE LIFE IS A LIE.
HAWAII DRIVER LICENSE
DEBBIE WILCOX 892 MOMONA ST HONOLULU, HI 85820
THAT'S ME.
HRRM...
ACCORDING TO THIS YOU'RE DEBBIE WILCOX, THE TWENTY-FIVE YEAR OLD HAWAIIAN ORGAN DONOR.
YOU HAVE TO LET ME IN. IF YOU DON'T, I'LL JUST... DIE.
609

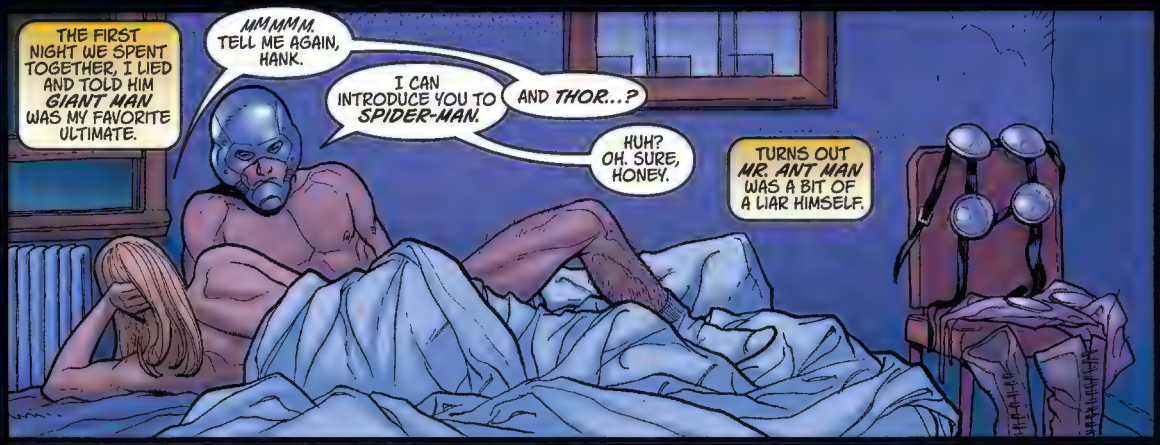

MY PARENTS THINK I GRADUATED WITH STRAIGHT "B"S. WHEN THE TRUTH IS I BARELY GOT OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.
PLEASE, FATHER THORNE. IF I DON'T GRADUATE, MY PARENTS WILL KILL ME.
YOU DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN, DO YOU?


I TOLD MY FRIENDS I GOT A MODELING JOB IN THE CITY. ACTUALLY, I WORKED DAYS AT A KOFFEE KING IN SOHO.
GOT IT. ICED VENTI VANILLA SOY. ICED GRANDE EXTRA MOCHA WHOLE MILK. VENTI CARAMEL MACCHIATO. AND AN ICED GRANDE NONFAT NO WHIP WHITE MOCHA.
KOFFEE KING
Today's Specials
- Mocha Steamer $4.95
- Colombia Steamer $4.95
- Cleveland Dream
- Dark McSwiggin $3.95
- California Blend $2.95
GREEN TEA $1.95
I WAS IN HELL.


IN THE MOVIE OF MY LIFE, THAT'S WHEN THE CREDITS SHOULD'VE ROLLED BY. THEN, ONE NIGHT ON CRAIG'S LIST...
"SUPER HERO TEAM LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS."
OH. MY. GOD.
LITTLE DID I KNOW, I WASN'T EVEN DONE WITH THE COMING ATTRACTIONS.
TEAM
THOR

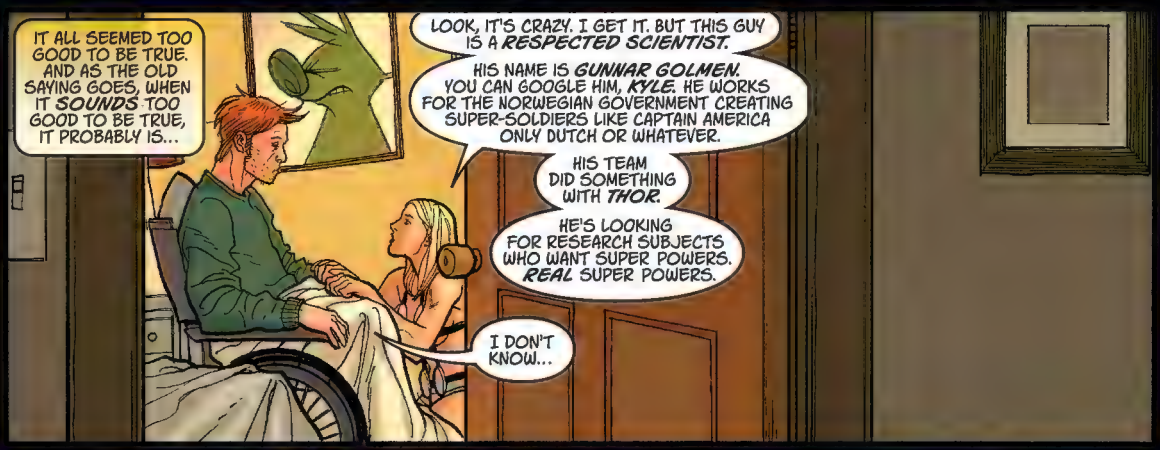

SO...I CAN BE ANYBODY I WANT, NIGHTHAWK?
AS LONG AS IT'S NOT TRADEMARK OR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, SURE! LIKE I WANTED A DIFFERENT NAME, BUT IT WAS TAKEN.
COOKIE
I WAS KINDA THINKING "THORGIRL." LIKE A FEMALE THOR?
"THORGIRL" MIGHT BE A PROBLEM. WHAT ABOUT "THE VALKYRIE"? I THINK WE COULD CLEAR THAT.
COOL. DO I HAVE TO KEEP THE "THE"?
I MET "THE DEFENDERS." FOUND OUT NONE OF THEM HAD ANY "REAL" SUPERPOWERS. I'M SURE MOST PEOPLE WOULD'VE RUN AWAY AS FAST AS YOU CAN...
...BUT I FOUND IT WEIRDLY COMFORTING.

I GOT TO MEET HANK PYM, ONE OF THE ACTUAL ULTIMATES. SOMEONE WHO HAD DONE SOMETHING WITH HIS LIFE.
YOU GOT A MAGIC HAMMER?
NO.
CAN YOU FLY?
NOT REALLY...
...BUT I CAN BENCH-PRESS TWO-FIFTY AND I'M SOMETHING OF A MARTIAL ARTS EXPERT.
LIES. I WAS HOPING FOR AN ORANGE BELT.


THE FIRST NIGHT WE SPENT TOGETHER, I LIED AND TOLD HIM GIANT MAN WAS MY FAVORITE ULTIMATE.
MMMMM. TELL ME AGAIN, HANK.
I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO SPIDER-MAN.
AND THOR...?
HUH? OH. SURE, HONEY.
TURNS OUT MR. ANT MAN WAS A BIT OF A LIAR HIMSELF.

THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT, ISN'T IT? TELLING OURSELVES THE LITTLE LIES THAT MAKE US FEEL BETTER?
UGH.
DAILY BUGLE
BUTT-ER LUCK NEXT TIME
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I TOLD MYSELF.

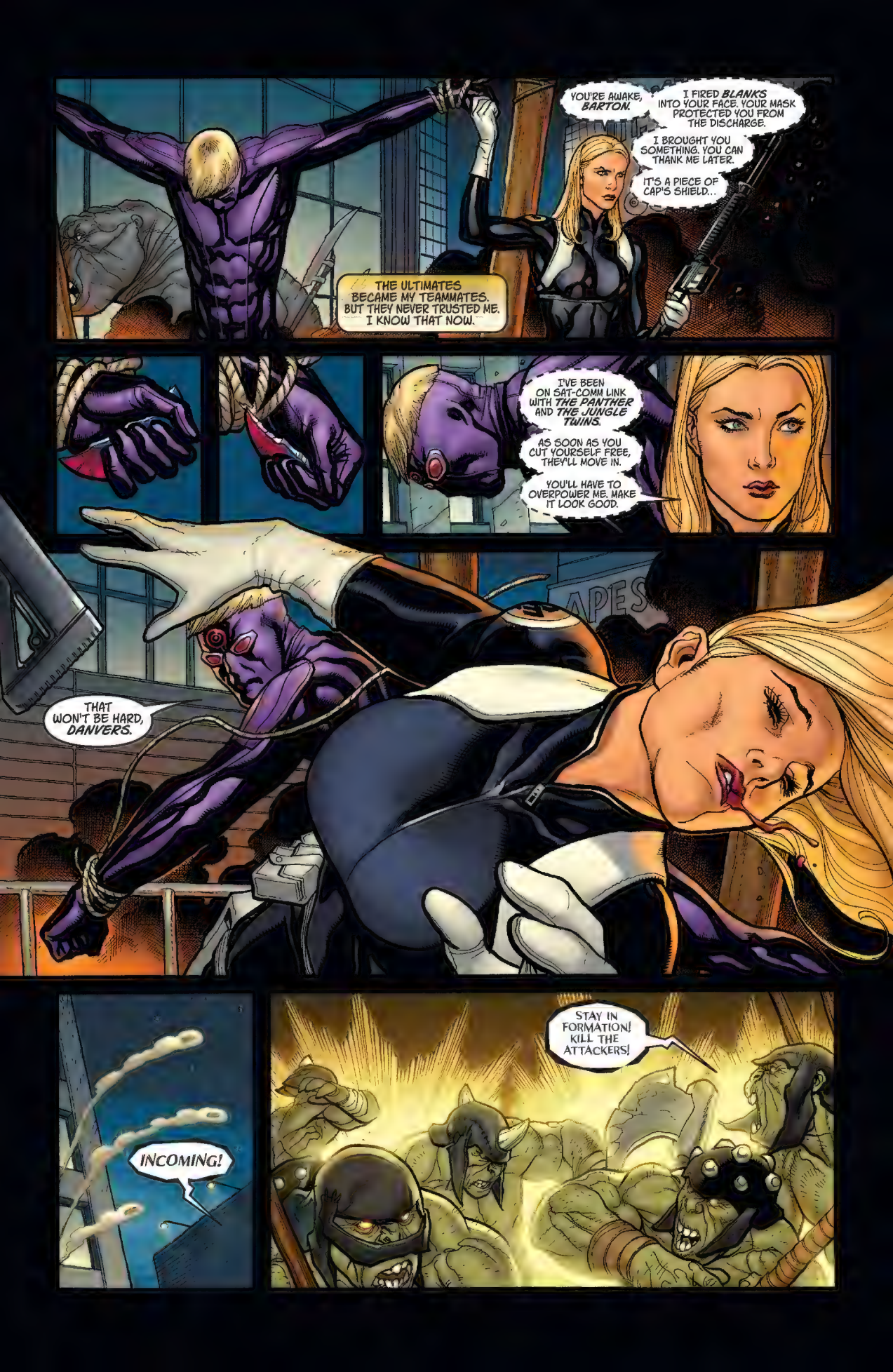
THEN...WHEN THINGS LOOKED THE WORST...I MET A MAN. HANDSOME. WELL-DRESSED. AND THAT ACCENT...
WHAT IF I WERE TO TELL YOU THAT ALL YOUR DREAMS COULD BECOME REALITY?
I'D TELL YOU THAT WAS THE WORST PICK UP LINE I'VE EVER HEARD.
MAYBE SO. BUT, WHAT IF I WERE NOT LYING?


IT ALL SEEMED TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. AND AS THE OLD SAYING GOES, WHEN IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS...
LOOK, IT'S CRAZY. I GET IT. BUT THIS GUY IS A RESPECTED SCIENTIST.
HIS NAME IS GUNNAR GOLMEN. YOU CAN GOOGLE HIM, KYLE. HE WORKS FOR THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT CREATING SUPER-SOLDIERS LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA ONLY DUTCH OR WHATEVER.
HIS TEAM DID SOMETHING WITH THOR.
HE'S LOOKING FOR RESEARCH SUBJECTS WHO WANT SUPER POWERS. REAL SUPER POWERS.
I DON'T KNOW...

HE CAN MAKE YOU ALL BETTER. NO BROKEN BONES. WITHOUT DRUGS. EVEN BETTER THAN BETTER.
YOU COULD BE THE REAL NIGHTHAWK.
THIS GUY IS ON THE LEVEL...?
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR, BARBARA...
TELL YOU WHAT. I'LL GO FIRST. IF I'M NOT ALL SUPER POWERED UP, THE REST OF YOU CAN TAKE A PASS. BUT IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH...
GUNNAR GOLMEN WASN'T JUST A LIAR.

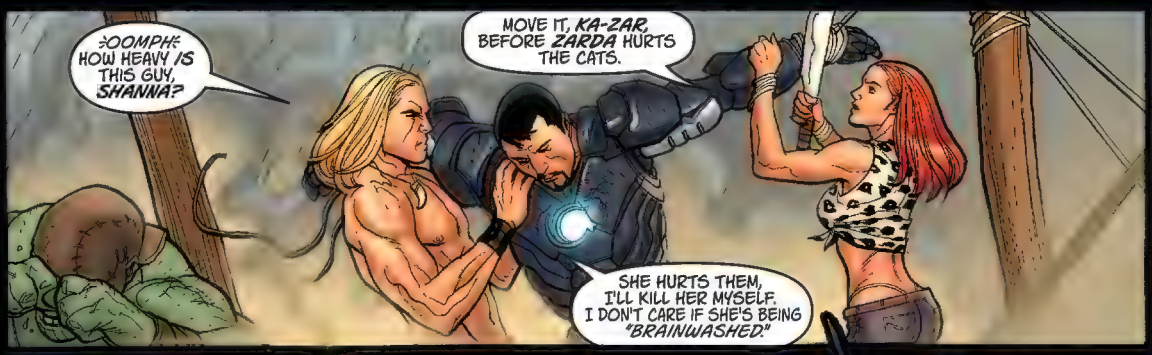
HE WAS THE PRINCE OF LIES.
YOU DID WONDERFULLY, BARBARA.
NOW, CLOSE YOUR EYES.
AND WHEN YOU OPEN THEM...
IRONICALLY, HE WAS TRUE TO HIS WORD. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I WAS DOING SOMETHING REAL, ONLY...

NEW YORK CITY. TONIGHT.
...I HAD ACTUALLY MADE A DEAL WITH LOKI, HALF-BROTHER OF THOR, AND GOD OF MISCHIEF AND MISDEEDS.
VICTORY IS OURS!
I BECAME VALKYRIE. MISTRESS OF PEGASUS. WIELDER OF THE GOLDEN BLADE.
AND THOR'S TRUE LOVE.
ONLY TO FIND OUT FROM AMORA THAT THOR NEVER CARED FOR ME. HIS LOVE WAS YET ANOTHER LIE.
SIGHTSEEING NEW YORK
NEW YORK TOUR
MY DREAM COME TRUE? IT WAS A NIGHTMARE.
MY LIFE. IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE...


YOU'RE AWAKE, BARTON.
I FIRED BLANKS INTO YOUR FACE. YOUR MASK PROTECTED YOU FROM THE DISCHARGE.
I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING. YOU CAN THANK ME LATER.
IT'S A PIECE OF CAP'S SHIELD...
THE ULTIMATES BECAME MY TEAMMATES. BUT THEY NEVER TRUSTED ME. I KNOW THAT NOW.
I'VE BEEN ON SAT-COMM LINK WITH THE PANTHER AND THE JUNGLE TWINS.
AS SOON AS YOU CUT YOURSELF FREE, THEY'LL MOVE IN.
YOU'LL HAVE TO OVERPOWER ME. MAKE IT LOOK GOOD.
APES
THAT WON'T BE HARD, DANVERS.
INCOMING!
STAY IN FORMATION! KILL THE ATTACKERS!

THOR MADE THEM TAKE ME IN. ONCE HE WAS GONE...
PANTHER!
STOP HIM! HE'S GOING AFTER CAP --
--GUGHNN!
T'CHALLA...?
YOU WON'T GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE.
...I COULD'VE BEEN THEIR GREATEST HERO...
...INSTEAD OF THE GIRL WHO ENDED THE ULTIMATES.

ROAARR
LOKI AND AMORA OPENED OUR EYES.
ZARDA AND CAROL DANVERS HELPED ME TAKE DOWN CAP, IRON MAN AND HAWKEYE.
WITHOUT THOR IT WAS EASY.
DAMNED BEASTS! I'LL SKIN YOU FOR COATS!


OOMPH! HOW HEAVY IS THIS GUY, SHANNA?
MOVE IT, KA-ZAR, BEFORE ZARDA HURTS THE CATS.
SHE HURTS THEM, I'LL KILL HER MYSELF. I DON'T CARE IF SHE'S BEING "BRAINWASHED."

TELL ME YOU'VE GOT A WAY OUT OF HERE!
BRILLIANT. I'M ASKING THE GUY WHO CAN'T TALK...

GOOD ENOUGH.

TIMES LIKE THIS, I MISS NICK FURY.
WE'VE GOT TO GET IRON MAN TO A HOSPITAL. HE'S PRETTY MESSED UP.
TIMES LIKE THIS, I MISS THE SAVAGE LAND.
COWARDS!
MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL, DANVERS.
HEY, ZARDA --
-- LOVED WORKING WITH YOU.
OF ALL THE INSOLENT...
I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD FOR THIS!
HOLD BACK, GODDESS ZARDA.

I COULD DESTROY THEM NOW, AMORA.
LET THEM RETREAT.
WE KNOW WHAT HOLE THEY'LL SCURRY DOWN AND TAKE THEM IN THEIR OWN HOME.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR TEARS.
WHAT KIND OF UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD HAD I TUMBLED INTO WHERE THE ONLY PERSON I FELT LIKE TOLD THE TRUTH...
...WAS THE ONE WHO ALWAYS LIED...?
I'M NOT CRYING... IT'S THE TEAR GAS...

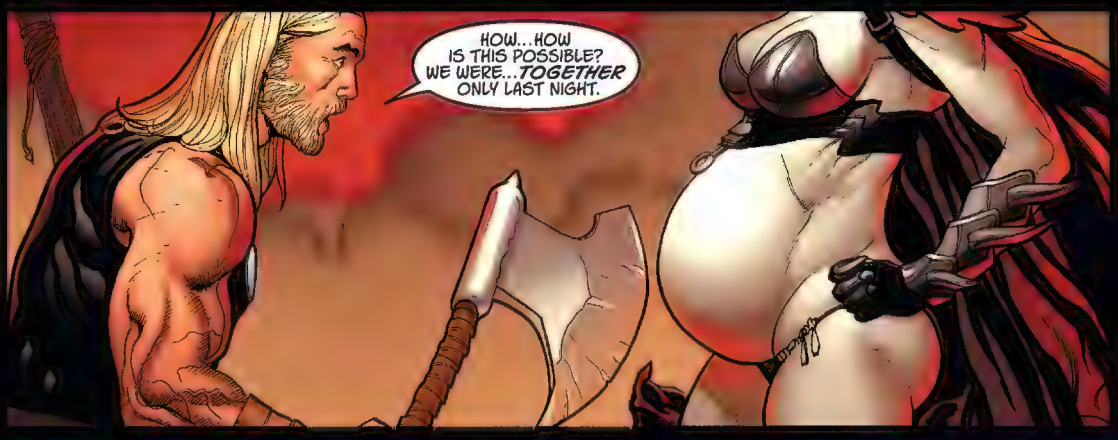
MY MISTAKE.
WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GIVEN ME...
...AM I UPSET THAT I FAILED YOU? YES.

FAILED ME? NOT YET YOU HAVEN'T.
BUT, I DO LOOK AT YOU WITH SYMPATHETIC EYES.
MY FATHER WOULD OFTEN BE DISAPPOINTED IN ME, WHILE HE COULD FIND ONLY DELIGHT IN WHATEVER MY BROTHER DID...

THOR.

VALHALLA. MYTHICAL LAND OF THE FALLEN. TIME UNKNOWN.
I THOUGHT THOR LOVED ME. THAT HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR ME.
ONLY TO LEARN THAT HE'S WITH SOMEONE ELSE...
HELA!
YOU AND I STRUCK A BARGAIN.
I'VE LIVED UP TO MY PART OF IT --
-- NOW YOU MUST LIVE UP TO YOURS.
YOU ARE CORRECT, THOR. IF YOU GAVE ME AN HEIR SO THAT I NO LONGER HAVE TO RULE VALHALLA ALONE --
-- I WOULD REWARD YOU WITH YOUR HEART'S DESIRE.
THEN SEND ME TO EARTH.
I'VE BEEN WITHOUT VALKYRIE FOR TOO LONG.
I WOULD IF I COULD, SON OF ODIN.
BUT, YOU KNOW BETTER THAN MOST THAT NO ONE CAN LEAVE THIS REALM TO RETURN TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING UNLESS ANOTHER TAKES HIS OR HER PLACE.
WHAT?!
I AM BOUND BY YOUR FATHER'S LAWS JUST LIKE YOU.
THEN, IT'LL BE YOUR DEATH THAT RELEASES ME!

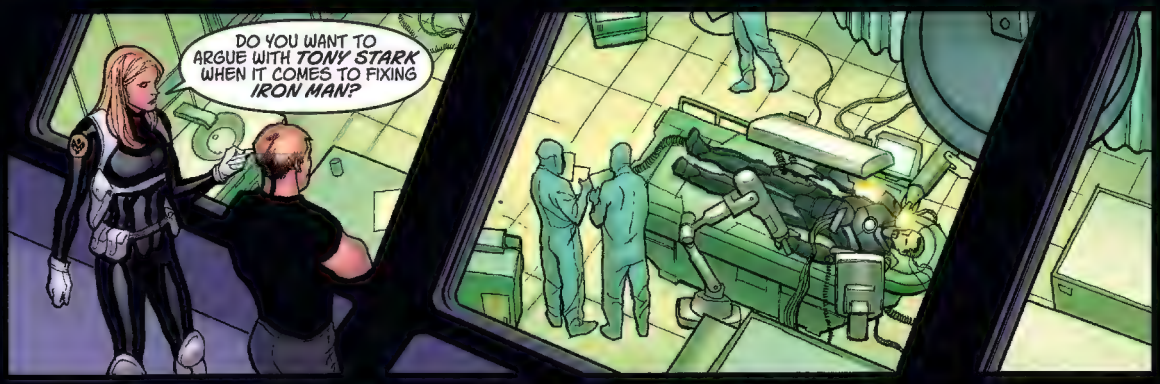
YOU WOULD KILL *YOUR UNBORN SON?*
FROM THE WAY HE KICKS, HE'LL BE A WARRIOR BORN.
HE MADE ME FEEL USED. SMALL. *ORDINARY.*
AS IF...WHAT WOULD A *GOD* WANT WITH ME?

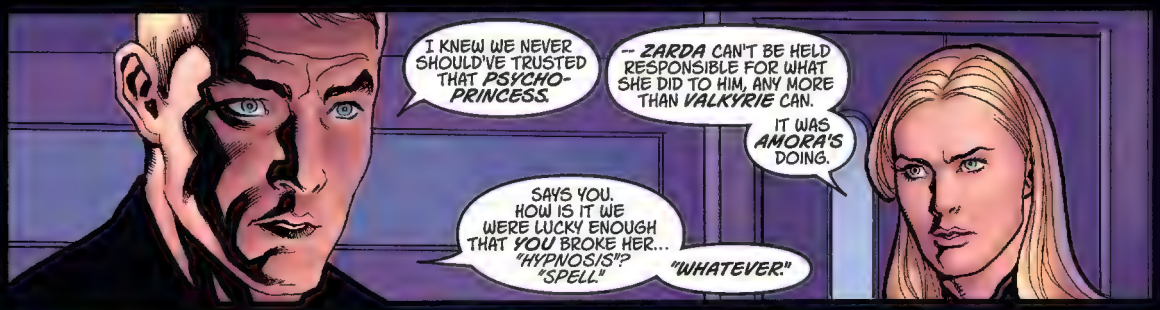

HOW...HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? WE WERE...*TOGETHER* ONLY LAST NIGHT.

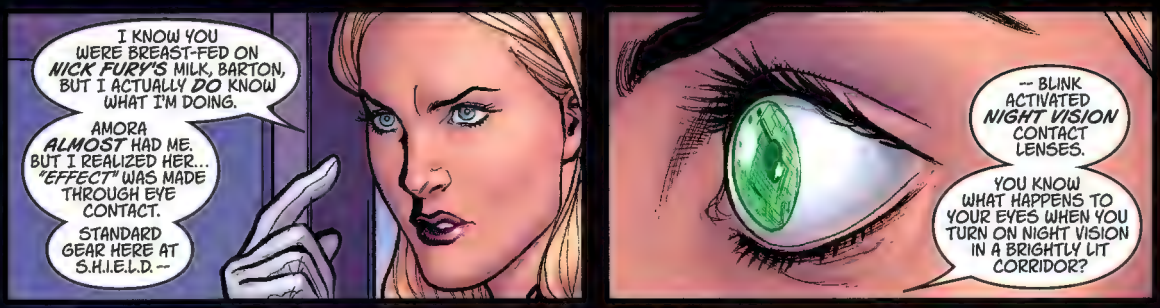
VALHALLA IS A PLACE THAT EXISTS WITHIN THE PAGES OF TIME.
HOW LONG HAD YOU BEEN BATTLING THE *ARMIES OF THE DEAD* BEFORE YOU GREW TIRED OF IT?
DAYS? WEEKS? DECADES?
FOR EVERY MINUTE THAT PASSES ON YOUR BELOVED EARTH --

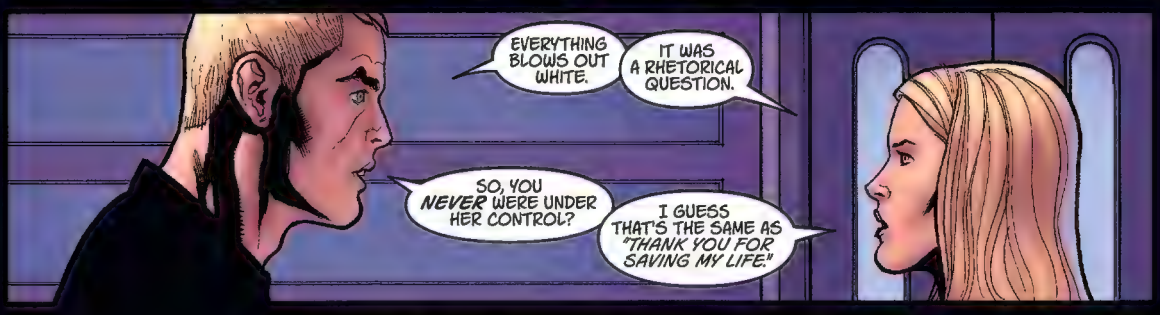
-- YOU MIGHT BE HERE FOR *HUNDREDS OF YEARS...*

THE TRISKELION. S.H.I.E.L.D. BASE OF OPERATIONS. HOME OF THE NEW ULTIMATES. LOWER MANHATTAN.
THOR CHEATED ON ME. THE ULTIMATES TURNED AGAINST ME.
LOKI IS THE ONLY ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME.
CAN WE MOVE IT ALONG IN THERE?
THOSE TROLLS AREN'T STOPPING FOR ANYTHING.


DO YOU WANT TO ARGUE WITH TONY STARK WHEN IT COMES TO FIXING IRON MAN?


I KNEW WE NEVER SHOULD'VE TRUSTED THAT PSYCHO-PRINCESS.
-- ZARDA CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT SHE DID TO HIM, ANY MORE THAN VALKYRIE CAN.
IT WAS AMORA'S DOING.
SAYS YOU. HOW IS IT WE WERE LUCKY ENOUGH THAT YOU BROKE HER... "HYPNOSIS"? "SPELL."
"WHATEVER."


I KNOW YOU WERE BREAST-FED ON NICK FURY'S MILK, BARTON, BUT I ACTUALLY DO KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
AMORA ALMOST HAD ME. BUT I REALIZED HER... "EFFECT" WAS MADE THROUGH EYE CONTACT.
STANDARD GEAR HERE AT S.H.I.E.L.D. --
-- BLINK ACTIVATED NIGHT VISION CONTACT LENSES.
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR EYES WHEN YOU TURN ON NIGHT VISION IN A BRIGHTLY LIT CORRIDOR?


EVERYTHING BLOWS OUT WHITE.
IT WAS A RHETORICAL QUESTION.
SO, YOU NEVER WERE UNDER HER CONTROL?
I GUESS THAT'S THE SAME AS "THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE."

I DON'T LIKE YOU, DANVERS. I DON'T LIKE YOU PRETENDING THAT HAVING THE ULTIMATES BACK UNDER S.H.I.E.L.D.'S THUMB DOESN'T FLOAT YOUR BOAT.
AND WHILE FURY MIGHT BE A FIRST CLASS SON OF A BITCH, AT LEAST I KNOW HE'S NOT PLAYING GUMBY AND POKEY WITH THE GUY WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE SMARTEST ONE ON THE TEAM --
-- EXCEPT WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN, WHICH ARE HIS KRYPTONITE.

AS MUCH AS I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU FIRED AND BURIED IN A SEA OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT SUITS OF YOUR OWN MAKING --
-- I DON'T WANT THE HEADACHE OF HAVING TO FILL OUT ALL THAT PAPERWORK --
-- AND WHO THE @#$% ARE YOU TO QUESTION WHAT TONY AND I DO ON OUR OFF HOURS?!
TONY STARK IS A GROWN MAN --

-- WHOSE JUDGMENT GETS IMPAIRED JUST SOUTH OF HIS BELTLINE.
I'M NOT DEAD.

I COULD HEAR EVERYTHING YOU BOTH SAID. SO, WHILE YOU EACH COULD STAND AROUND AND LOOK SUITABLY EMBARRASSED --
-- WHY DOESN'T ONE OF YOU GET ME A DRY MARTINI WITH TWO OLIVES AND THREE VICODIN --
-- WE'VE GOT A CITY TO SAVE.

THE SECOND THIS MISSION'S OVER, I'M PACKING MY BAGS AND --
BARTON.
CATCH.
THANKS.
GOTTA SAY I'VE MISSED THIS.
GOOD. YOU'RE GOING TO NEED IT.
SOUNDS LIKE THE MAN HAS A PLAN.
THE SHOT OF A LIFETIME.

I BELIEVE IN LOKI.
CALL TO ARMS.

CAP. THOR. IRON MAN. ALL OF THEM SHOULD PAY FOR HUMILIATING ME.
WE'LL HAVE ONE CHANCE AT THIS, PEOPLE.
MAKE IT COUNT.
THIS'D BE LOT EASIER IF WE HAD *THOR* BACK WITH US.
YES, IT WOULD.

SUCH FUN.
EMPIRE STATE

HAWKEYE...!
ON IT.
C'MON... JUST...TURN THIS WAY...
BULLSEYE.
NO.
OH, YES.

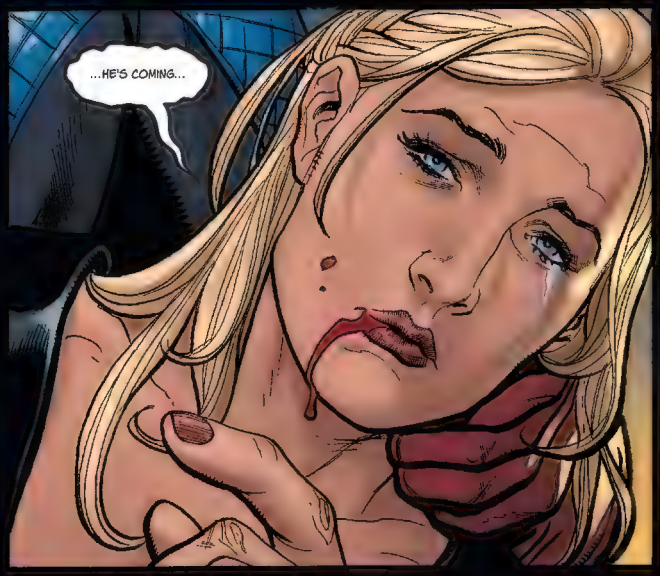
WAIT.
WHAT...?
SUDDENLY, AMORA'S SPELL WAS BROKEN. EVERYTHING WAS TURNED BACK AROUND.
WHAT'VE I DONE...?
LOK!!
SOMEBODY WOKE UP IN A BAD MOOD.
I'LL KILL YOU.
NICE SWORD.
I THINK I'LL ADD IT TO MY COLLECTION --
-- ALONG WITH THOR'S HAMMER.

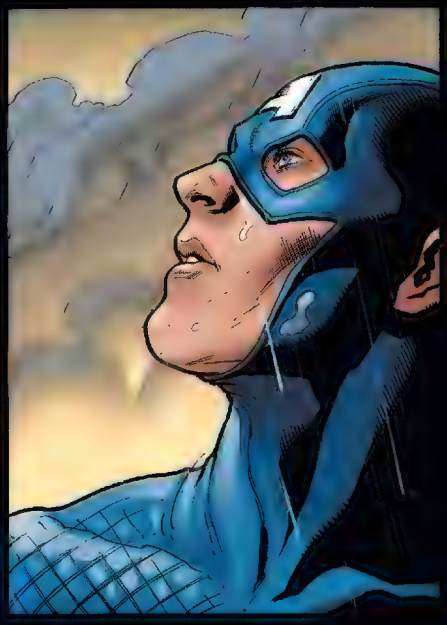
IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING...
...YOU DIDN'T DISAPPOINT ME AFTER ALL.
IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT I REALIZED *THE TRUTH* ABOUT MY LIFE...
...THE ONE HONEST THING I EVER DID WAS DIE.

VALKYRIE!

CAP...I'M SORRY...
SHH. WE'LL GET YOU TO THE TRISKELION.

DON'T.
...FOR ONCE... I'M OKAY WITH WHAT I'VE DONE...


...HE'S COMING...



BROTHER!
THERE WILL BE BLOOD.
TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL

NEW ULTIMATES®

LOEB CHO

ISSUE 4

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NEW YORK CITY.
IMAGINE, IF YOU CAN, THAT YOU ARE A GOD.
LOKI! I HAVE COME FOR YOU, BROTHER!
TECHNICALLY, I MADE IT SO YOU COULD BE HERE, BROTHER.
NOT THAT YOU WOULD EVER THINK TO THANK ME.
THOR! YOU'RE ALIVE...
STEP AWAY FROM MY BELOVED.
VALKYRIE... SHE'S... SHE'S DEAD... I'M SORRY...
STEP AWAY.
ALL POWERFUL. ALL KNOWING. ALL EVERYTHING.

NOW!
IMAGINE THAT SAME UNIVERSE WITH A *BROTHER* WHO SPOILS ALL YOUR FUN.
THAT'S MY LIFE. MY CROSS TO BEAR.
I AM *LOKI*.
THE GOD OF MISCHIEF. THE GREAT DECEIVER. THE TRICKSTER PRINCE.
MOST IMPORTANTLY, KING ODIN'S *OTHER* SON.

THOR AND I SHARE THE SAME FATHER, DIFFERENT MOTHERS.
MINE WAS A FROST GIANT'S DAUGHTER.
LOVELY.
GCHNNNN!
GOT YOU.
SO... THOR'S BACK FROM THE DEAD?
APPARENTLY. AND...I'M NOT SO SURE THAT'S A GOOD THING...

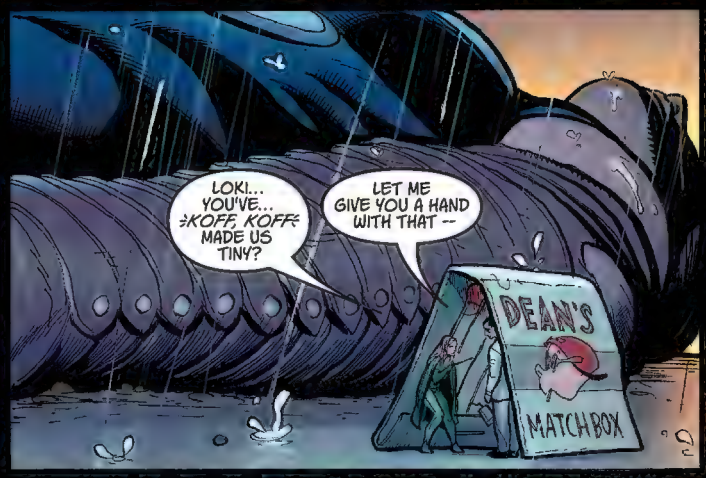
VALKYRIE...
I, OF COURSE, WAS NOT BORN A GIANT. MY HEIGHT DISADVANTAGE CAME FROM MY FATHER'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY.
BROTHER, I SMELL YOUR ROLE IN THIS.
I CAN TELL YOU ARE NEAR.
I WILL FIND YOU!

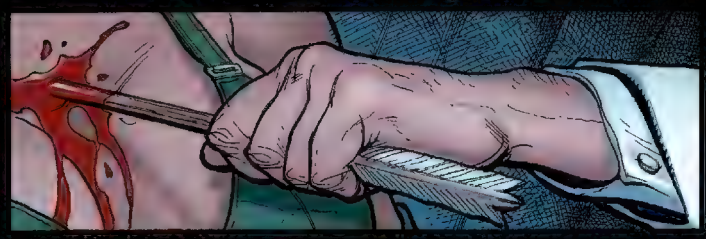
I ALSO APPARENTLY INHERITED MY FATHER'S THIRST FOR POWER AND CONQUEST.
AT LEAST, I LIKE TO THINK IT WAS FROM HIM.
LOKI! SHOW YOURSELF, COWARD!

I'M CLOSER THAN YOU THINK, FOOL.
BUT YOU NEVER DID THINK SMALL...

AND I EVEN HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO YOU.

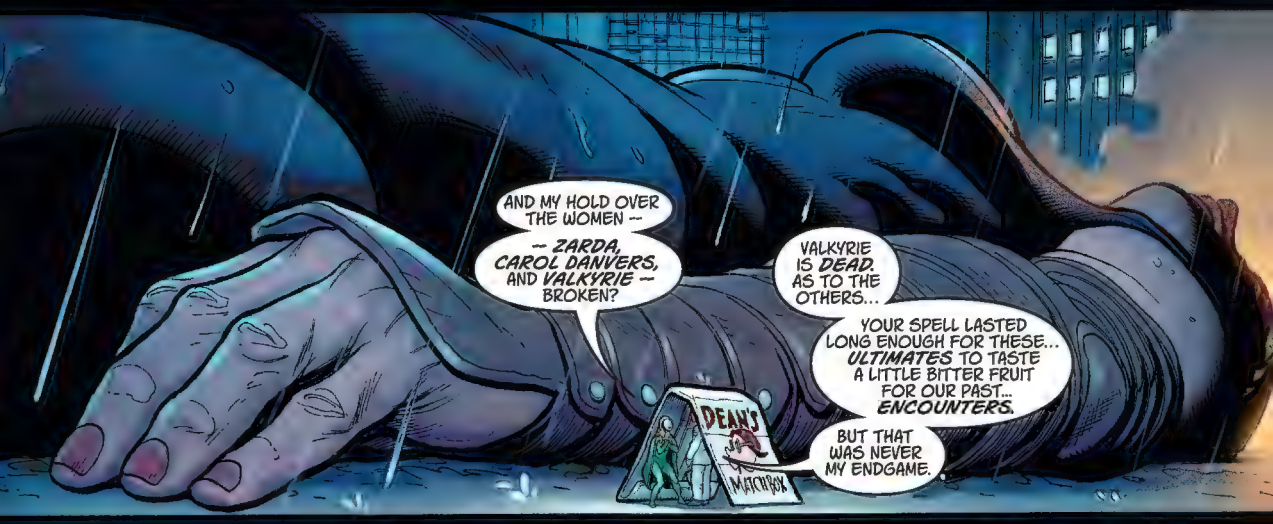
:KOFF, KOFF:
AH, LOVELY AMORA. AWAKE AT LAST, ENCHANTRESS.


LOKI... YOU'VE... :KOFF, KOFF: MADE US TINY?
LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND WITH THAT --
DEAN'S
MATCHBOX

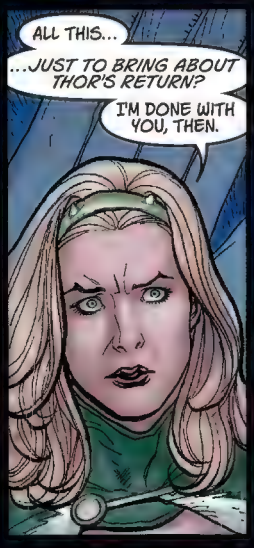


EEEE
THERE.

OH, FOR ODIN'S SAKE, AMORA, HAWKEYE'S ARROW MERELY KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF YOU.
YOU'RE A GODDESS, START ACTING LIKE ONE.
AND YET YOU HAVE US HIDING LIKE ANTS AMONG THESE MORTALS.
FOR THE TIME BEING.


AND MY HOLD OVER THE WOMEN --
-- ZARDA, CAROL DANVERS, AND VALKYRIE -- BROKEN?
VALKYRIE IS DEAD. AS TO THE OTHERS...
YOUR SPELL LASTED LONG ENOUGH FOR THESE... ULTIMATES TO TASTE A LITTLE BITTER FRUIT FOR OUR PAST... ENCOUNTERS.
BUT THAT WAS NEVER MY ENDGAME.
DEAN'S
MATCHBOX

THAT'S ALL THIS EVER WAS TO YOU. A GAME.
WHY ACT SO SURPRISED?
I SAW THE PLEASURE YOU TOOK IN TOYING WITH THEIR AFFECTIONS.
YOU MURDERED THOR'S LOVER.
WHAT OF IT? SHE WAS A MEANS TO AN END.


ALL THIS...
...JUST TO BRING ABOUT THOR'S RETURN?
I'M DONE WITH YOU, THEN.

BEWARE, LOKI. OF ALL THE TRICKS YOU'VE BROUGHT DOWN ON YOUR BROTHER --
-- BY PLAYING UPON HIS HEART --
-- YOU MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR...

ON THE CONTRARY, AMORA...
...I'VE NOT YET GONE FAR ENOUGH...
THOR EXCELLED IN ALL THINGS PHYSICAL. THE "WARRIOR BORN" IF EVER THERE WERE ONE.
SINCE HE HAD TO BE THE BRAWN IN THE FAMILY...
...THAT LEFT ME WITH THE BRAINS.
WHILE OTHERS MOCKED MY BOOKS AND INTELLECTUAL PURSUITS...
...INCLUDING THOR...
...I FOUND A SPECIALTY OF MY OWN.
CHO

SORCERY.
WHERE IS AMORA?
WHERE IS THAT WITCH WHO CAST A SPELL ON ME?
WELCOME BACK TO THE PARTY, ZARDA.
TIME FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED.
THOR... IMPOSSIBLE...
AH... NOW I SEE YOUR TRUE FORM, HAG!
I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE!
ACK! WHAT IS THIS?!

CLAIMING INNOCENCE WON'T SAVE YOU.
TWO BROTHERS VYING FOR THEIR FATHER'S ATTENTION ISN'T ANYTHING NEW.
I AM THE GODDESS YOU WILL BOW BEFORE.
MAD GODDESS IS MORE LIKE IT.
THOR BOWS TO NONE.
THOR! ENOUGH!
ENOUGH?
NO ONE GIVES ORDERS TO THE SON OF ODIN!
OH, HELL.

MORTALS HAVE MADE A BIBLICAL FEAST OF IT ALL. ESAU AND JACOB. CAIN AND ABEL.
THOR. LISTEN TO ME. IT'S TONY.
VALKYRIE'S LOSS HAS UPSET YOU... I UNDERSTAND --
BUT YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN.
YOU UNDERSTAND NOTHING!

YOU FAILED TO PROTECT HER.
ARRRGH!
UNLIKE THOSE BROTHERS, HOWEVER, I DON'T WANT TO ACTUALLY KILL THOR.

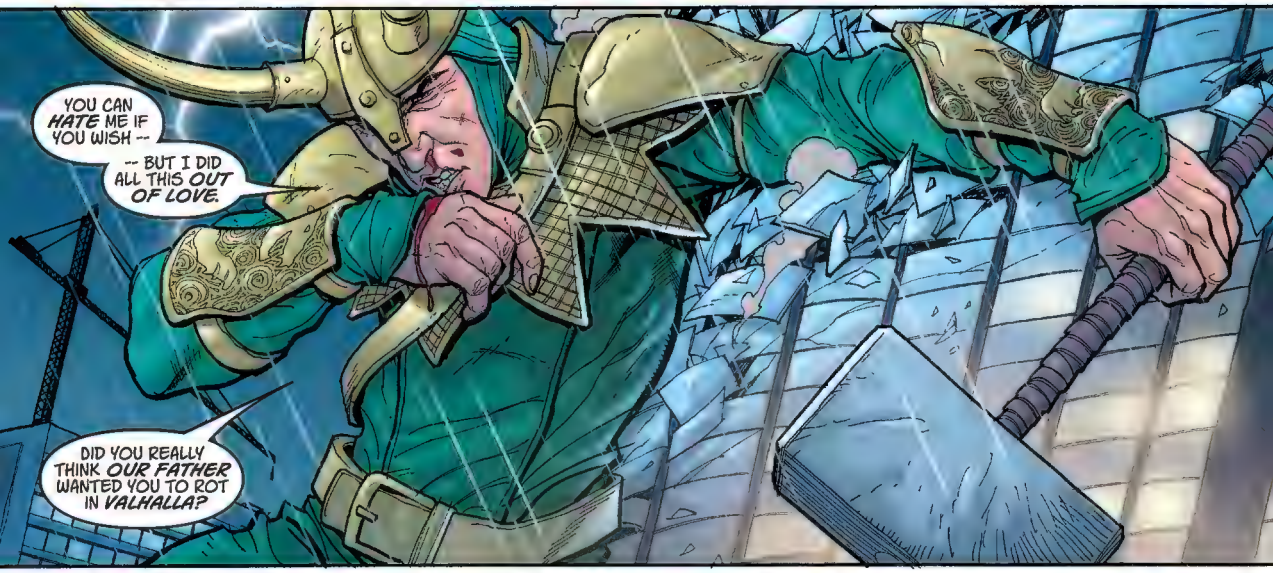
AND YOU WILL ALL PAY THE PRICE.
I JUST WANT TO @#$% WITH HIM...

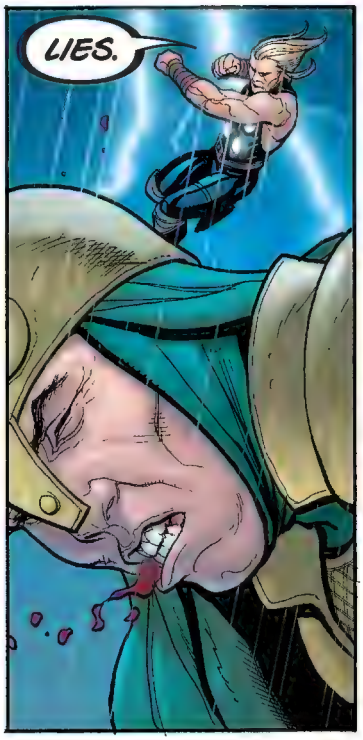
Valhalla. Mythical Land of The Fallen. Time Unknown.
WHERE...
...WHERE AM I?
YOU KNOW THIS PLACE.
YOU WERE TAKEN FROM HERE ONCE BEFORE.
HELA! YOU MONSTER!
YOU STOLE MY BELOVED THOR FROM ME --
-- MADE LOVE WITH HIM --
-- I'LL TEAR YOU APART!
HUSH.
YOU'LL WAKE THE BABY.
BABY...? IN VALHALLA?
WHAT'S HAPPENED...?
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER... LOKI KILLED ME...
YES AND WITH YOU HERE, THOR COULD LEAVE --
-- NEITHER WERE TO MY LIKING.
LOKI THINKS HE CAN PLAY HIS LITTLE GAMES WITH ANYONE HE PLEASES...
WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?
NOT I, BARBARA NORRISS...

...YOU WHO TOOK THE NAME "VALKYRIE" --
-- HAVE AT LAST BECOME THE ROLE YOU WERE BORN AND DIED TO PLAY...
CHO

WHEN YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AS THE GOD OF MISCHIEF, A TRICKSTER OF EPIC PROPORTIONS AS I DO...
...WELL, THE MAGIC ACT IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE AUDIENCE...
WELCOME BACK, DEAR BROTHER.
THINGS AREN'T THE SAME WITHOUT YOU.
YOU TAKE THE *APPEARANCE* OF A *GIANT*, LOKI --
-- BUT YOU WILL ALWAYS BE NOTHING MORE THAN A GOAT'S **TURD** IN MY EYES.

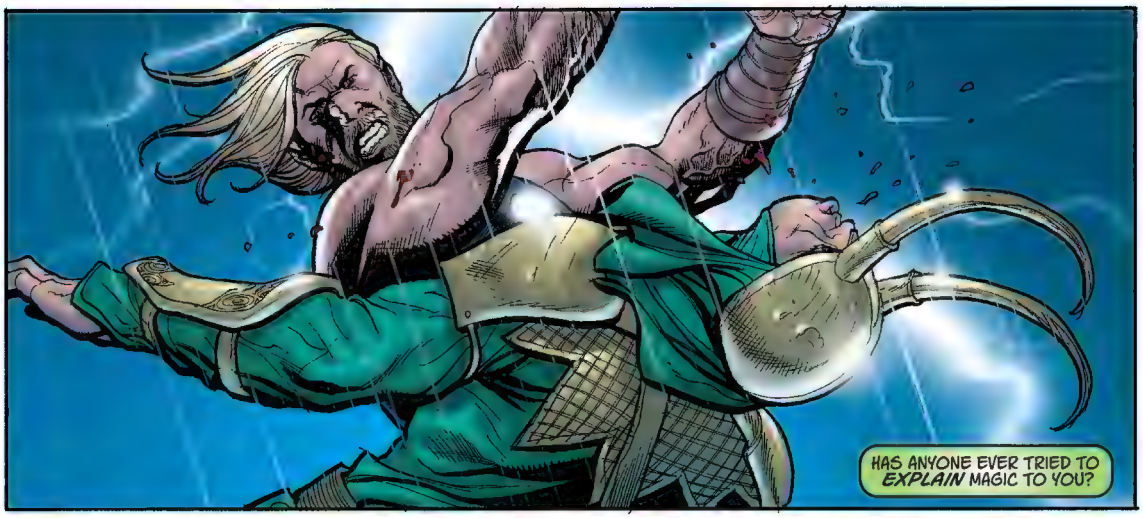
...AND THOR IS THE PERFECT AUDIENCE.
GHNNN
TRY AS YOU MIGHT TO HURT ME --
-- YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE FACT THAT I, ALONE, SAW THAT YOU RETURNED.

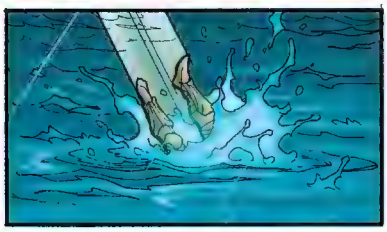

YOU CAN HATE ME IF YOU WISH --
-- BUT I DID ALL THIS OUT OF LOVE.
DID YOU REALLY THINK OUR FATHER WANTED YOU TO ROT IN VALHALLA?

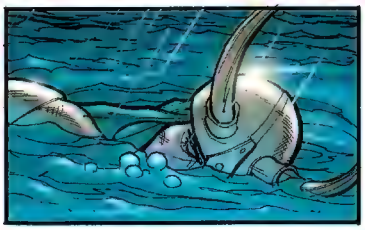

LIES.

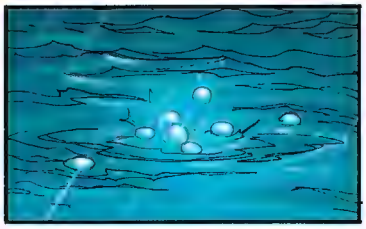
EVERYTHING YOU DO IS RIFE WITH LIES.

FOR THAT YOU WILL BE PUNISHED.

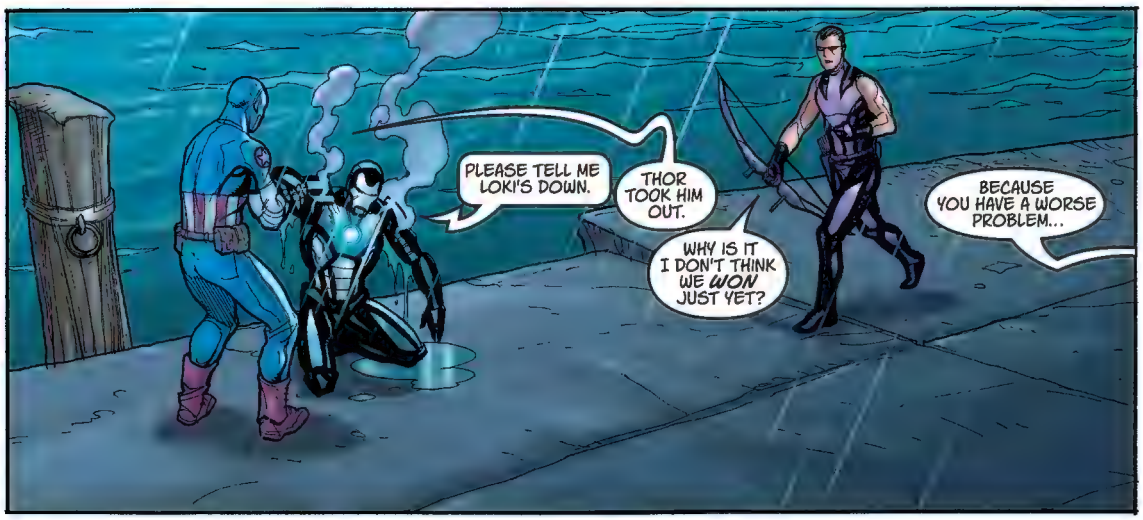

HAS ANYONE EVER TRIED TO *EXPLAIN* MAGIC TO YOU?





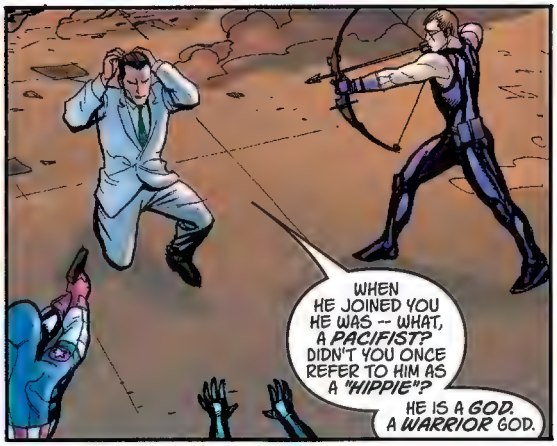


TO ME, MJOLNIR!


PLEASE TELL ME LOKI'S DOWN.
THOR TOOK HIM OUT.
WHY IS IT I DON'T THINK WE *WON* JUST YET?
BECAUSE YOU HAVE A WORSE PROBLEM...

...ONE THAT I'M PARTIALLY TO BLAME FOR.
MORE LIKE ALL TO BLAME.
ON YOUR KNEES. HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD.
TAKE FOR EXAMPLE, AND I APOLOGIZE IF THIS IS SPOILING IT FOR YOU, HOW THE MAGICIAN PULLS A RABBIT OUT OF AN OTHERWISE SEEMINGLY EMPTY HAT.
"SEEMINGLY" BEING THE KEY WORD THERE.

HAVE ANY OF YOU TAKEN THE TIME TO ASK YOUR ASGARDIAN TEAMMATE HOW IT IS HE CAME TO EARTH?
HE HAD ALL OF THE NINE REALMS AS HIS PLAYGROUND, WHAT WOULD BRING HIM HERE?


WHEN HE JOINED YOU HE WAS -- WHAT, A PACIFIST? DIDN'T YOU ONCE REFER TO HIM AS A "HIPPIE"?
HE IS A GOD. A WARRIOR GOD.

I WILL ALLOW YOU TO HUMILIATE ME LIKE THIS SOLELY TO PROVE MY POINT.
I AM NOT THE THREAT HERE.
PIER BAR

NOT FROM WHERE I STAND.

YOU HAD A HAND IN THE DEATH OF MY WIFE AND KIDS.

TAKE MY LIFE THEN.
BUT NOT BEFORE YOU KNOW THE TRUTH.
WHEN THOR WAS MUCH YOUNGER, THERE WAS A GREAT UPRISING BETWEEN ASGARD AND THE FROST GIANTS.
THOR WON THE DAY -- BUT WITH LITTLE OR NO CONCERN FOR THE COST.

IF THE TRICK IS DONE PROPERLY, THE RABBIT APPEARS OUT OF THIN AIR. A BRILLIANT BIT OF FOOLERY.
LET IT BE KNOWN FROM THIS DAY FORTH --
-- NONE CAN OR WILL DEFY THOR THE MIGHTY!
BUT IF YOU KNOW THE SECRET, ALL YOU'RE LEFT WITH IS A RABBIT AND A HAT WITH A *FALSE* BOTTOM.
THEN, THERE *IS* NO MAGIC.
WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?

FOR HIS ARROGANCE AND STUPIDITY, THOR WAS BANISHED TO THIS PLACE BY OUR FATHER.
AND TO SEE TO IT THAT THOR DIDN'T DESTROY EARTH AS HE HAD ASGARD, HIS ANGER WAS TAMED AS PART OF THE PUNISHMENT.
EVERYTHING I DID TONIGHT WAS, INDEED, TO BRING THOR BACK FROM THE DEAD --
-- BUT I HADN'T CONSIDERED HOW LONG HE'D BEEN IN VALHALLA...
...TIME THERE PASSES DIFFERENTLY... WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN MONTHS FOR YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN CENTURIES FOR HIM.
HIS TRUE SELF IS NO LONGER STIFLED.
MY BROTHER WAS REBORN AS HE ONCE WAS...
A GOD GONE MAD.
FOR TOO LONG I HAVE STAYED MY HAND!
NOW YOU WILL ALL TASTE MY THUNDER--
--AND NO ONE WILL STOP ME!
MAGIC WORKS BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BELIEVE IN IT. LIKE YOU WANT TO BELIEVE IN THOR...
...EVEN WHEN HE'S NOTHING MORE THAN A FALSE BOTTOM.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS...
WATCH ME PULL THE END OF THE WORLD OUT OF MY HAT...
TO BE CONCLUDED!

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NEW ULTIMATES
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ISSUE
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CHO
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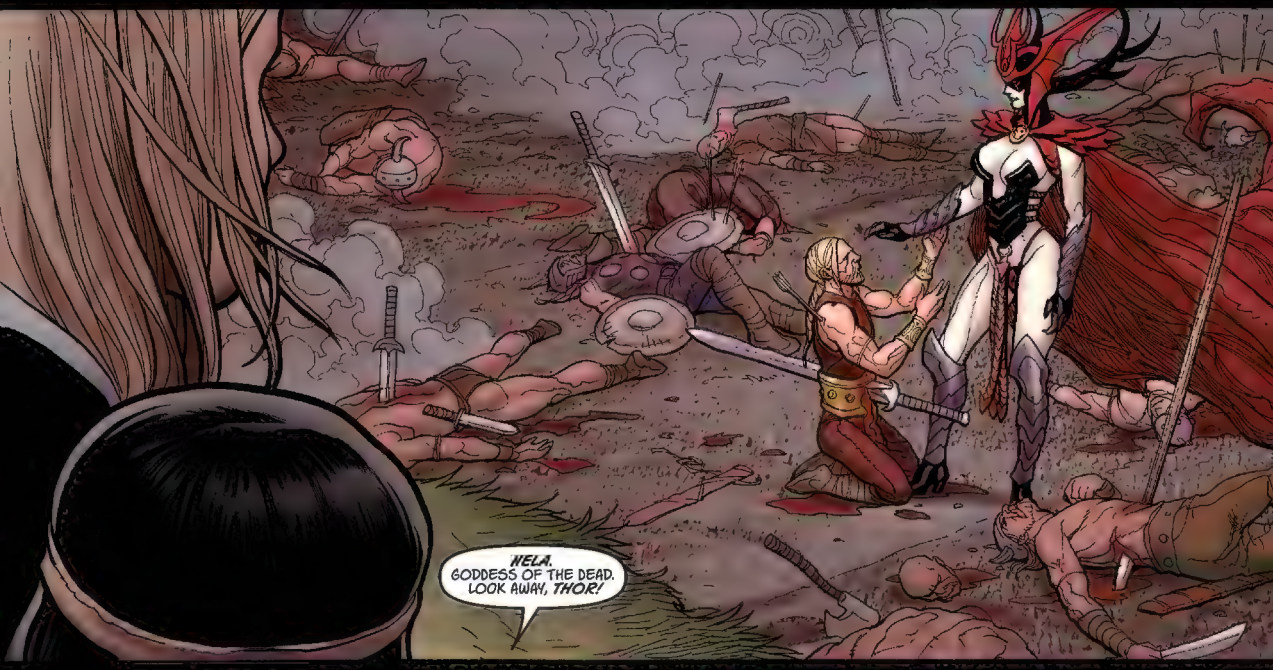
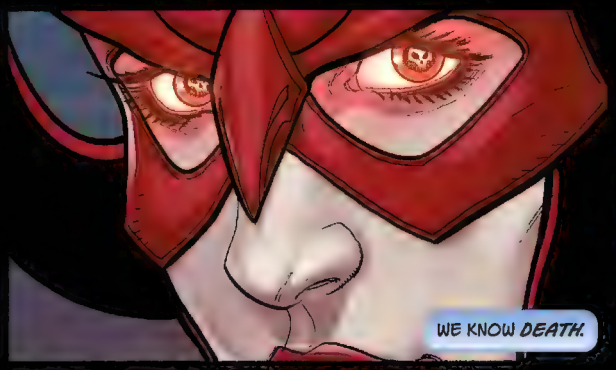
ASGARD. LONG AGO.
GODS.
YOU HUMANS THINK OF US AS IMMORTALS.

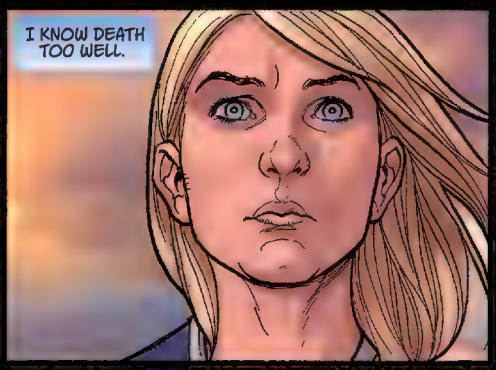
YOU KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT US.

SO LITTLE ABOUT ME.
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A REAL SWORD, LOKI.
YOUR DAY WILL COME, THOR. YOUR TASTE FOR BATTLE HAS ALREADY REACHED OUR FATHER --

BROTHER, WHO IS THAT...?
SHHH! DON'T MAKE A SOUND.


HELA. GODDESS OF THE DEAD. LOOK AWAY, THOR!


WE KNOW DEATH.


I KNOW DEATH TOO WELL.

NEAR THE TRISKELION S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS. HOME OF THE NEW ULTIMATES. NEW YORK CITY. NOW.

I AM *THOR ODINSON,* GOD OF THUNDER.

A WARRIOR BORN AND A WARRIOR *DIED.*

NOW *REBORN,* BUT AT A TERRIBLE COST...

...THE WOMAN I LOVED...

VALKYRIE, SACRIFICED HERSELF FOR ME.

MY ANGER WILL NOT BE QUELLED –

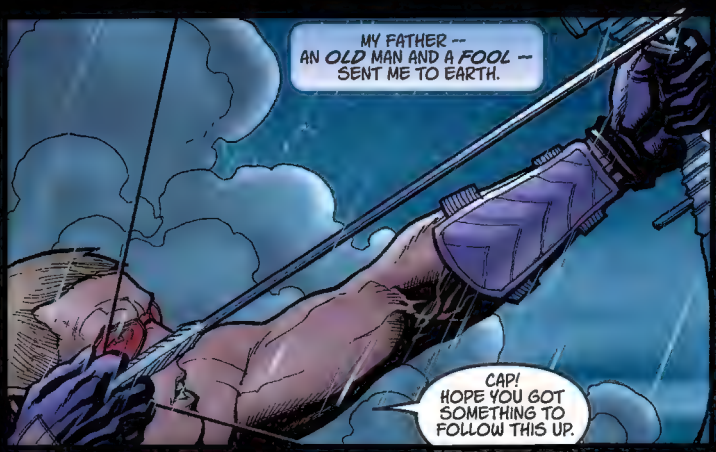
– YOU WILL KNOW MY WRATH!

I SEE ONLY RED. THE COLOR OF BLOOD.
THEY BROUGHT THIS ON THEMSELVES. CHILDREN WHO PLAY AT WAR.
SHANNA, PLEASE -- WE'VE GOT TO GET TO COVER.
LET ME GO, KA-ZAR -- WE NEED TO FIND THE CATS!
THEY'RE PROBABLY SAFE ALREADY --
McSWIGGIN

T'CHALLA! YOU FOUND THEM. THANK YOU!

I WANT TO GO HOME, KA-ZAR...
THERE'S NO HOME TO GO HOME TO...

YOU, ME, EVEN THE PANTHER...
...WE'VE GOT NO PLACE ELSE TO GO...


MY FATHER -- AN OLD MAN AND A FOOL -- SENT ME TO EARTH.
CAP! HOPE YOU GOT SOMETHING TO FOLLOW THIS UP.

YOU COME AT ME WITH TOYS?

GAHHH! BLINDED!
KEPT FROM ASGARD. LOCKED AWAY FROM MY FAMILY. FROM LOVE.

HOW'S THIS FOR SIZE?

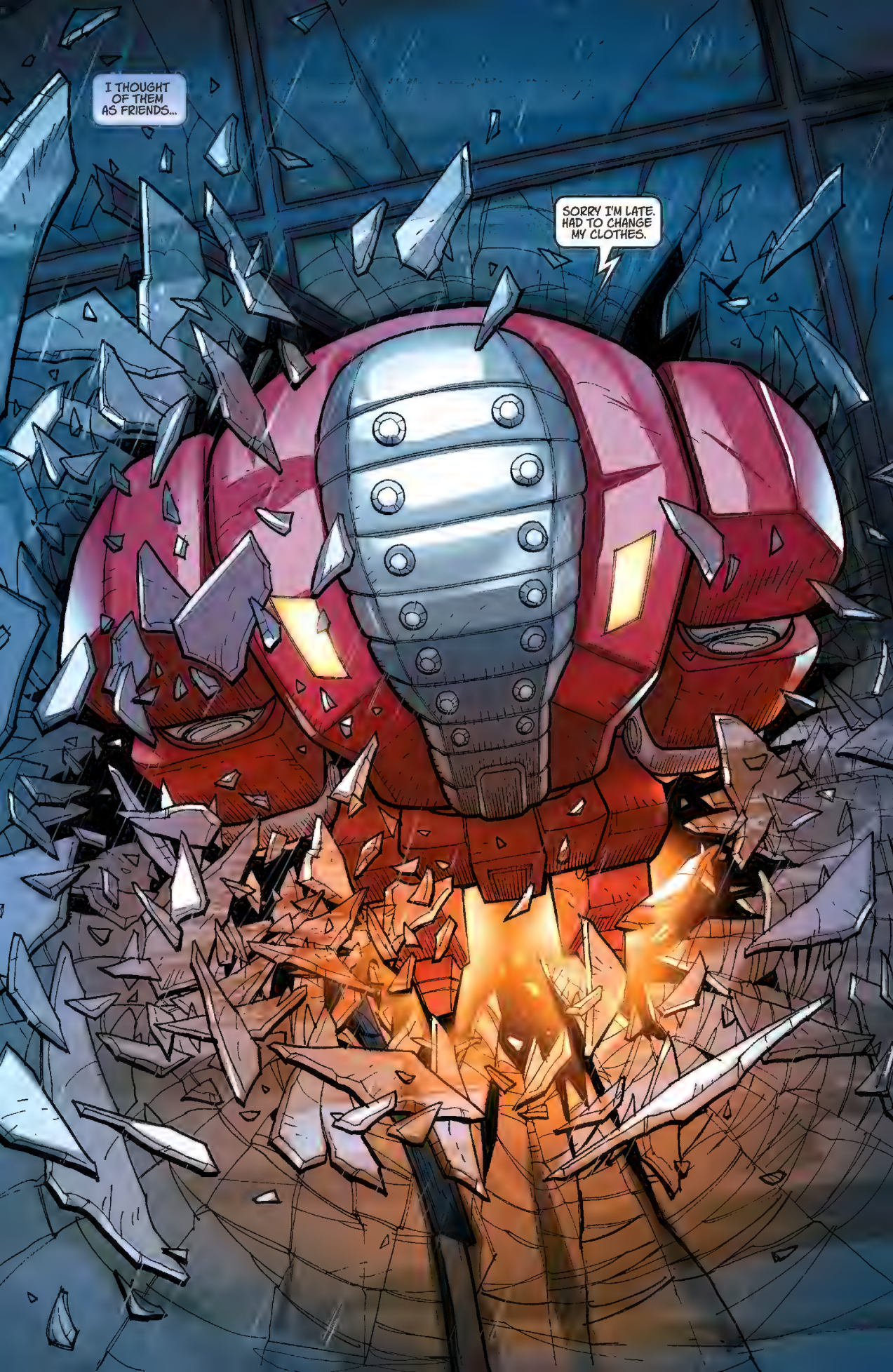
PATHETIC.

REMIND ME TO GET YOU A NEW SHIELD FOR CHRISTMAS...

ZARDA! IT'S CAROL DANVERS. YOU'VE GOT TO WAKE UP!
¿MUJE HOW MUCH DO YOU WEIGH?!
TO BE A GOD HUMBLED AMONG MORTALS. TO HAVE EVERYTHING STRIPPED AWAY.
HOW COULD I HAVE NOT GONE MAD?
WHA-WHAT'S HAPPENED?
IT'S THOR. HE'S OUT OF HIS MIND. COMPLETELY UNSTOPPABLE AT THIS POINT.
WHO SAID YOU COULD TOUCH ME?
IT'S TIME YOU ALL LEARNED WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF.
OKAY, SENT ONE WACKO GOD AFTER ANOTHER...
...NOT THE WORST PLAN I'VE EVER COME UP WITH...

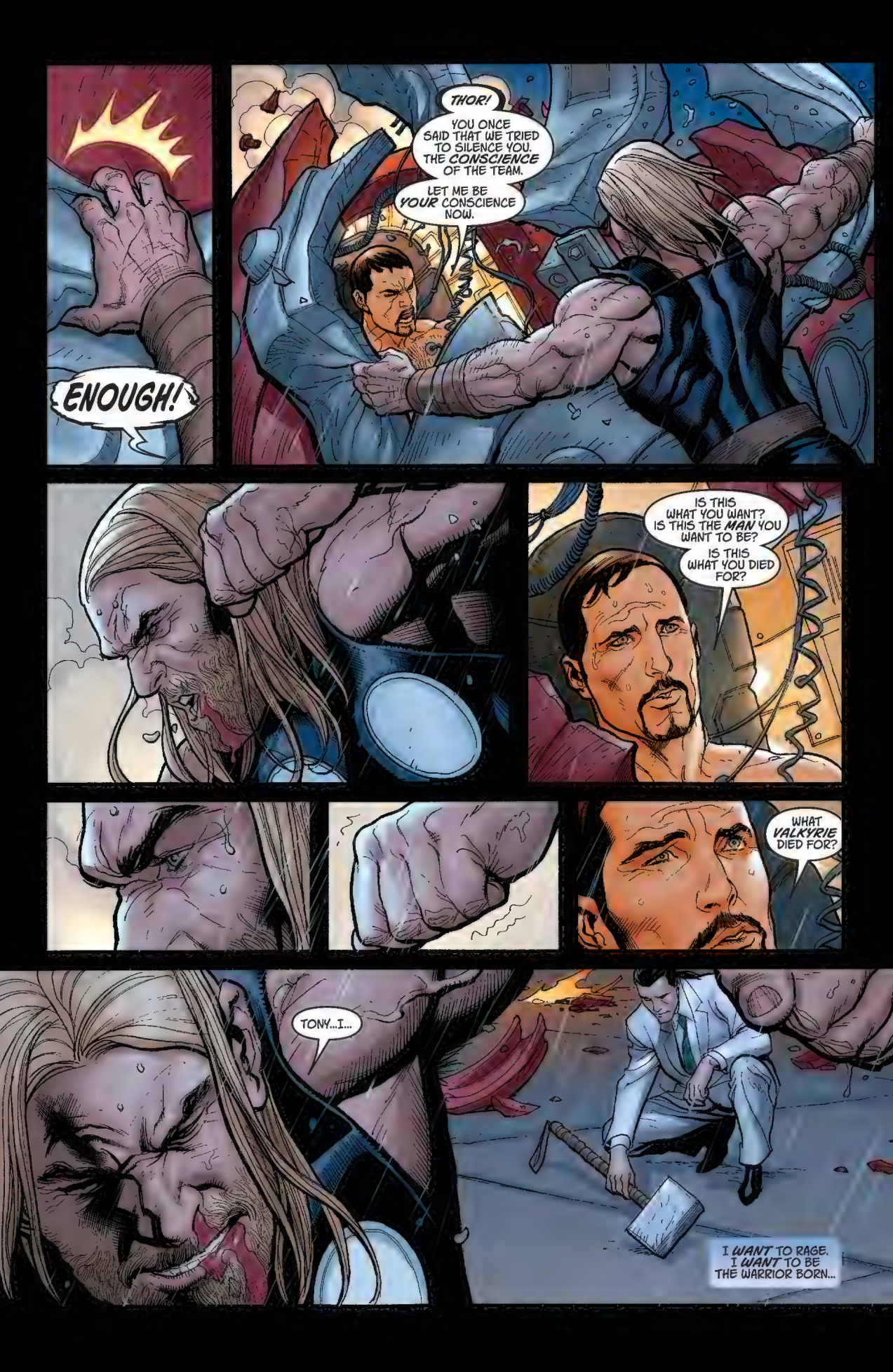
I GREW TO LIKE THESE PEOPLE. SOME OF THEM AT LEAST.
I THOUGHT THEY WERE WORTH PROTECTING.
THERE WAS A TIME I'D HOPED WE'D HAVE A KINSHIP.
GODS AMONG MEN.
YOU'D BARELY WARRANT NOTICE ON ASGARD...
...AND EVEN LESS HERE ON EARTH.
THAT... HURT.
GOOD. HERE'S MORE.
THEN I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE SHOWN ME THERE'S NO POINT IN HOLDING BACK.

I WISH THAT MY TRUE LOVE, HYPERION COULD WATCH --
-- AS I SEND YOU TO YOUR GRAVE.
BE THANKFUL THAT HYPERION IS NOT HERE --
-- FOR WHEN YOU GET TIRED...
FOR MY LOYALTY, I WAS MET WITH BETRAYAL.
FOR MY HUMILITY, I WAS SEEN AS WEAK.
FOR MY TRUST, I WAS REWARDED WITH FAILURE.
IF SHE WASN'T SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS, I COULD GET TO LIKE ZARDA.
THEY'RE TOO EVENLY MATCHED.
WE NEED HELP...


I THOUGHT OF THEM AS FRIENDS...
SORRY I'M LATE. HAD TO CHANGE MY CLOTHES.

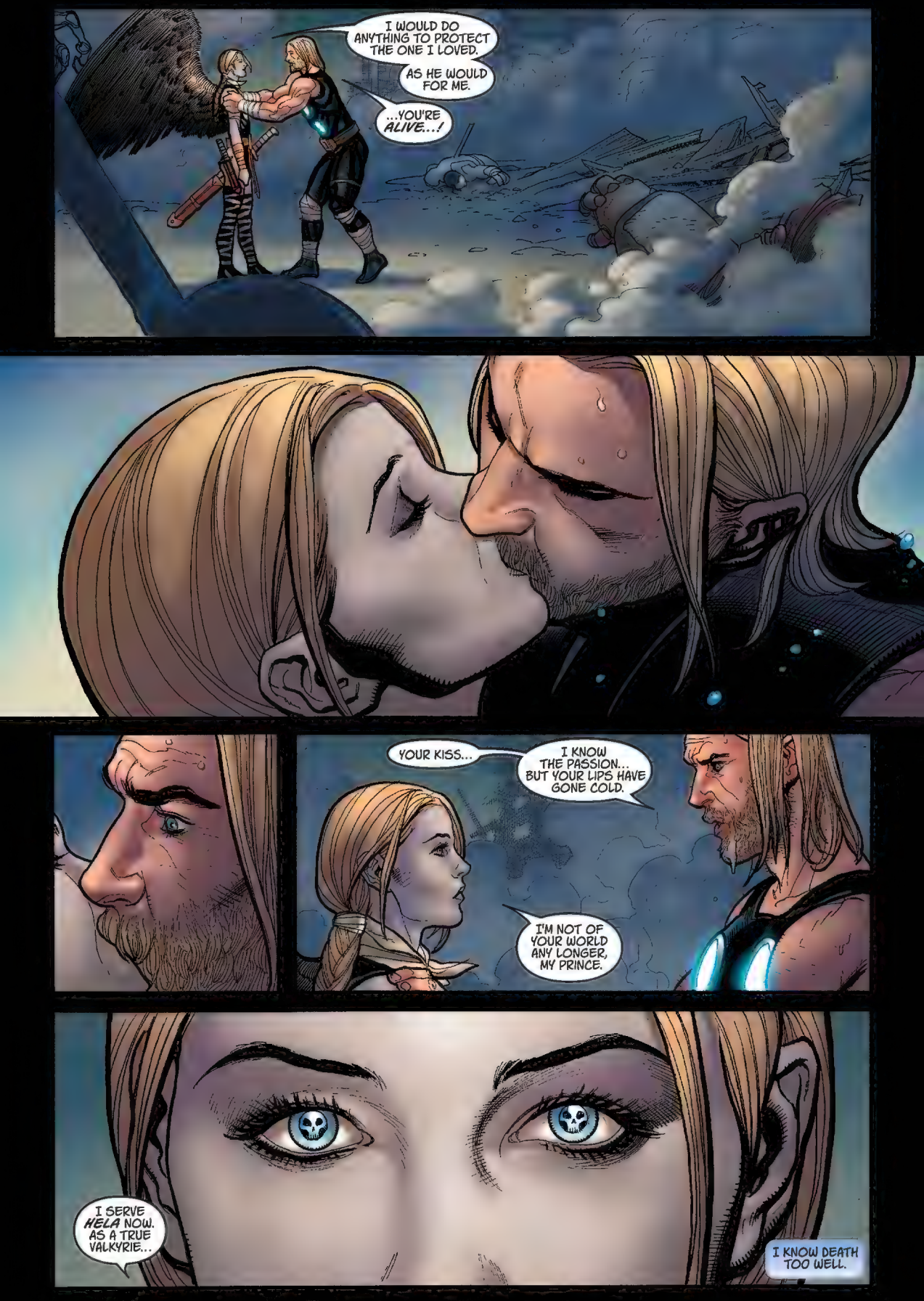
THIS STOPS NOW.
...BUT THEY'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND THE SACRIFICES I MADE TO BE IN THEIR WORLD.
DID YOU LEARN *NOTHING* FROM OUR LAST ENCOUNTER, TONY?
WHAT GOOD ARE YOUR CIRCUITS AND WIRES WHEN THEY'VE BEEN *SEARED BLACK?*

ACTUALLY, IT WAS YOU WHO GAVE ME THE IDEA FOR THIS ARMOR.
I WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO TAKE DOWN THE HULK --
-- BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT DAY'S GOING TO COME.
THE CHALLENGE IS THAT THE HULK GETS MORE POWERFUL THE ANGRIER HE GETS!
SO HOW DO I GET MY BOOST?
THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.
OUR VERY OWN DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER.
THEY ARE NOT WORTHY.


ENOUGH!
THOR!
YOU ONCE SAID THAT WE TRIED TO SILENCE YOU. THE CONSCIENCE OF THE TEAM.
LET ME BE YOUR CONSCIENCE NOW.
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT? IS THIS THE MAN YOU WANT TO BE?
IS THIS WHAT YOU DIED FOR?
WHAT VALKYRIE DIED FOR?
TONY...I...
I WANT TO RAGE. I WANT TO BE THE WARRIOR BORN...

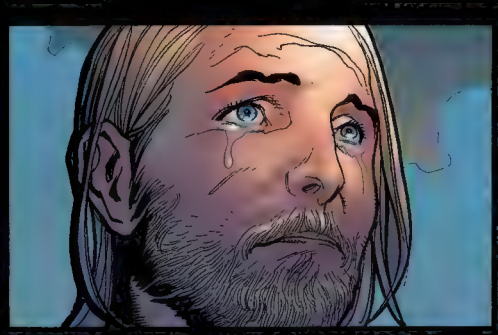
DON'T STOP NOW, BROTHER. WE WERE JUST GETTING TO THE FUN PAR--
=URRKKKGL!=
WE KNOW DEATH.
WHO DARES?
WHO DARES SMITE MY BROTHER?!

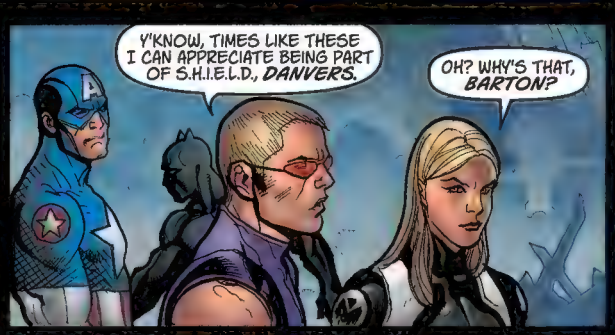
I DARE.
VALKYRIE... MY BELOVED...


I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT THE ONE I LOVED.
AS HE WOULD FOR ME.
...YOU'RE ALIVE...!
YOUR KISS...
I KNOW THE PASSION... BUT YOUR LIPS HAVE GONE COLD.
I'M NOT OF YOUR WORLD ANY LONGER, MY PRINCE.
I SERVE HELA NOW. AS A TRUE VALKYRIE...
I KNOW DEATH TOO WELL.

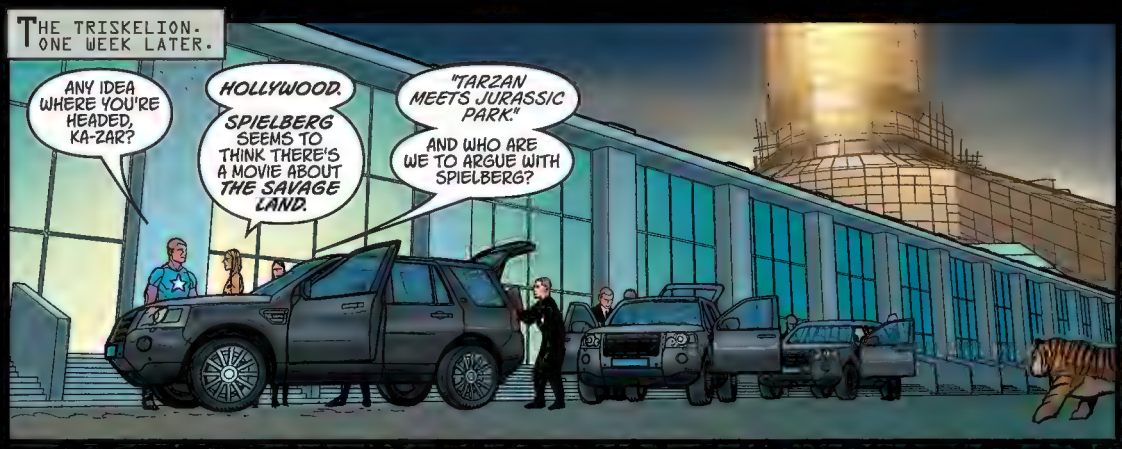
LOKI WILL NO LONGER BE YOUR CONCERN.
IN RETURN, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
ANYTHING.
REMEMBER THAT THESE PEOPLE -- THESE MORTALS -- WHO VEX YOU SO...
...I WAS ONCE ONE OF THEM.

AND IF OUR LOVE MEANT ANYTHING TO YOU...
...FIND IT IN YOUR HEART AGAIN FOR ALL OF MANKIND...
I AM ALONE. AN ASGARDIAN AMONG MEN. PERHAPS, MY FATHER WAS NOT SUCH A FOOL. AND I STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN...

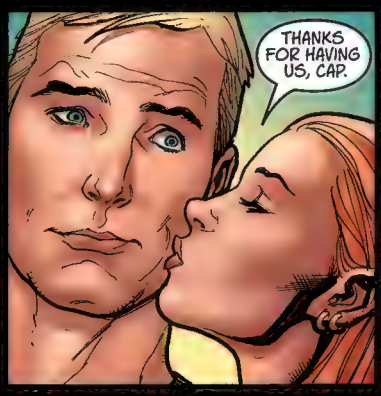



Y'KNOW, TIMES LIKE THESE I CAN APPRECIATE BEING PART OF S.H.I.E.L.D., DANVERS.
OH? WHY'S THAT, BARTON?

'CAUSE NOW THAT IT'S OVER, YOU GUYS GET TO CLEAN IT ALL UP...


THE TRISKELION. ONE WEEK LATER.
ANY IDEA WHERE YOU'RE HEADED, KA-ZAR?
HOLLYWOOD. SPIELBERG SEEMS TO THINK THERE'S A MOVIE ABOUT THE SAVAGE LAND.
"TARZAN MEETS JURASSIC PARK."
AND WHO ARE WE TO ARGUE WITH SPIELBERG?

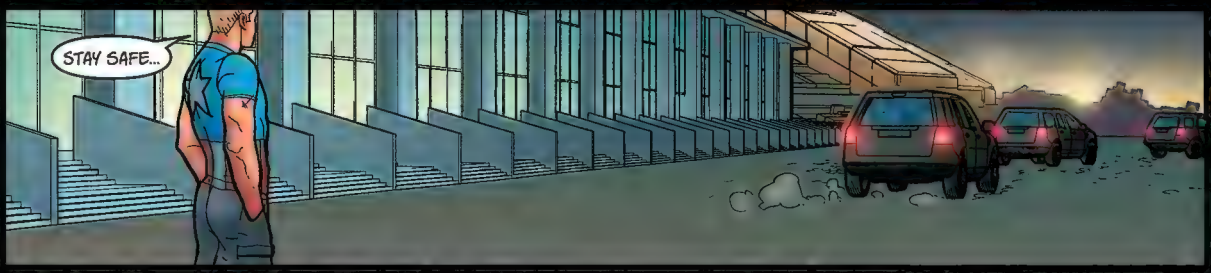
ZABUS! ≈SKREEET≈ LET'S GO YOU TWO!
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT WE ASKED T'CHALLA TO COME ALONG.

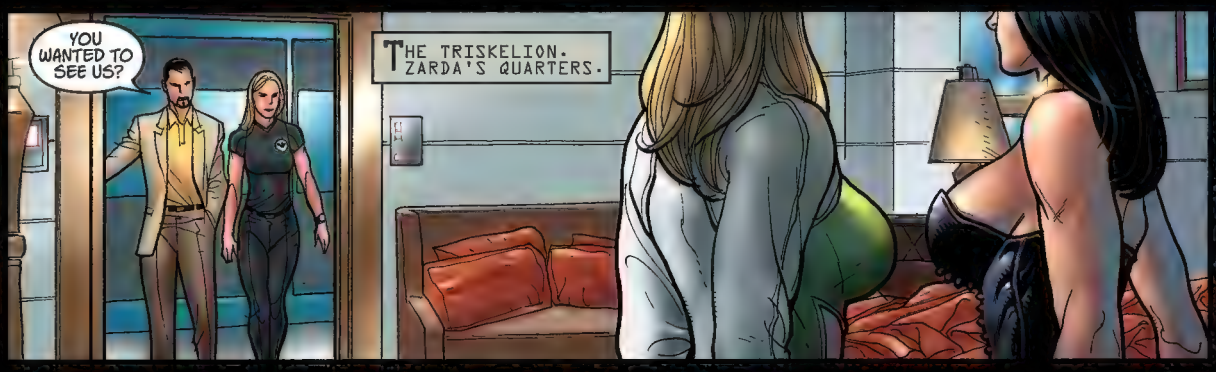

THANKS FOR HAVING US, CAP.

SEEMS LIKE WE BARELY GOT STARTED AND YOU'RE LEAVING, PANTHER.

UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN THAT'S SIGNING FOR... "THANK YOU."

AND THAT'D BE "GOOD BYE."


STAY SAFE...

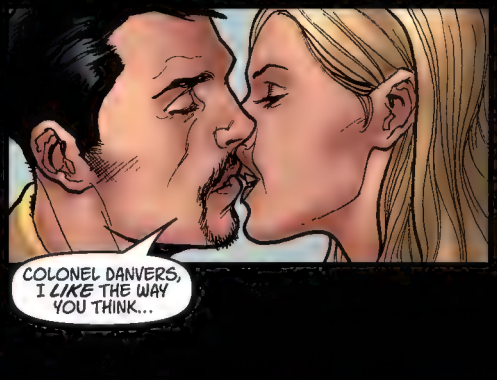

YOU WANTED TO SEE US?
THE TRISKELION. ZARDA'S QUARTERS.

ARCANNA WILL BE TAKING ME HOME. I'M NEEDED THERE.
THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT HERE ON THIS PLANET HAS BEEN FULFILLED.

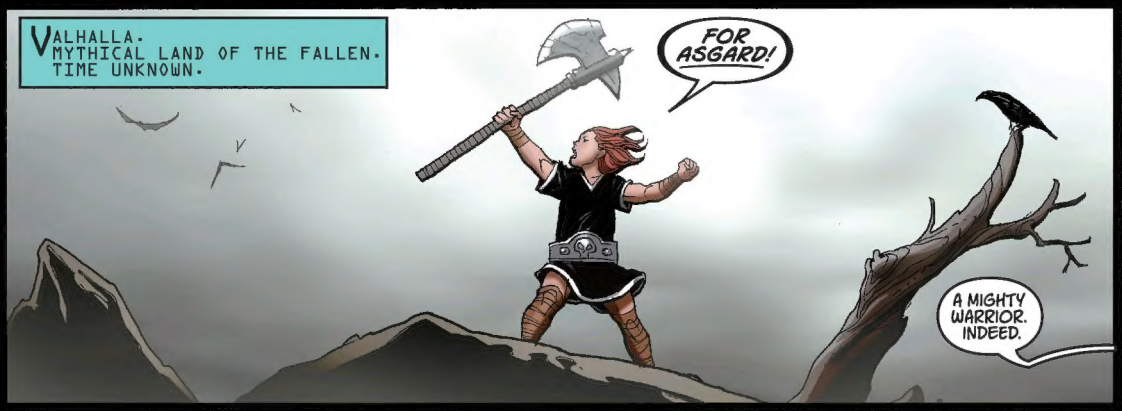
TRUST US ENOUGH THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO COME SCREW UP YOUR WORLD AGAIN?
I'M CONFIDENT NOW THAT ANYTHING YOU WOULD DO, WE COULD MORE THAN HANDLE.
YEAH, I'LL MISS YOU, TOO.

TIME TO GO.

THERE'S ONE GOOD THING ABOUT HER LEAVING --
-- BESIDES HER LEAVING?
WE GET AN EXTRA BEDROOM.


COLONEL DANVERS, I LIKE THE WAY YOU THINK...

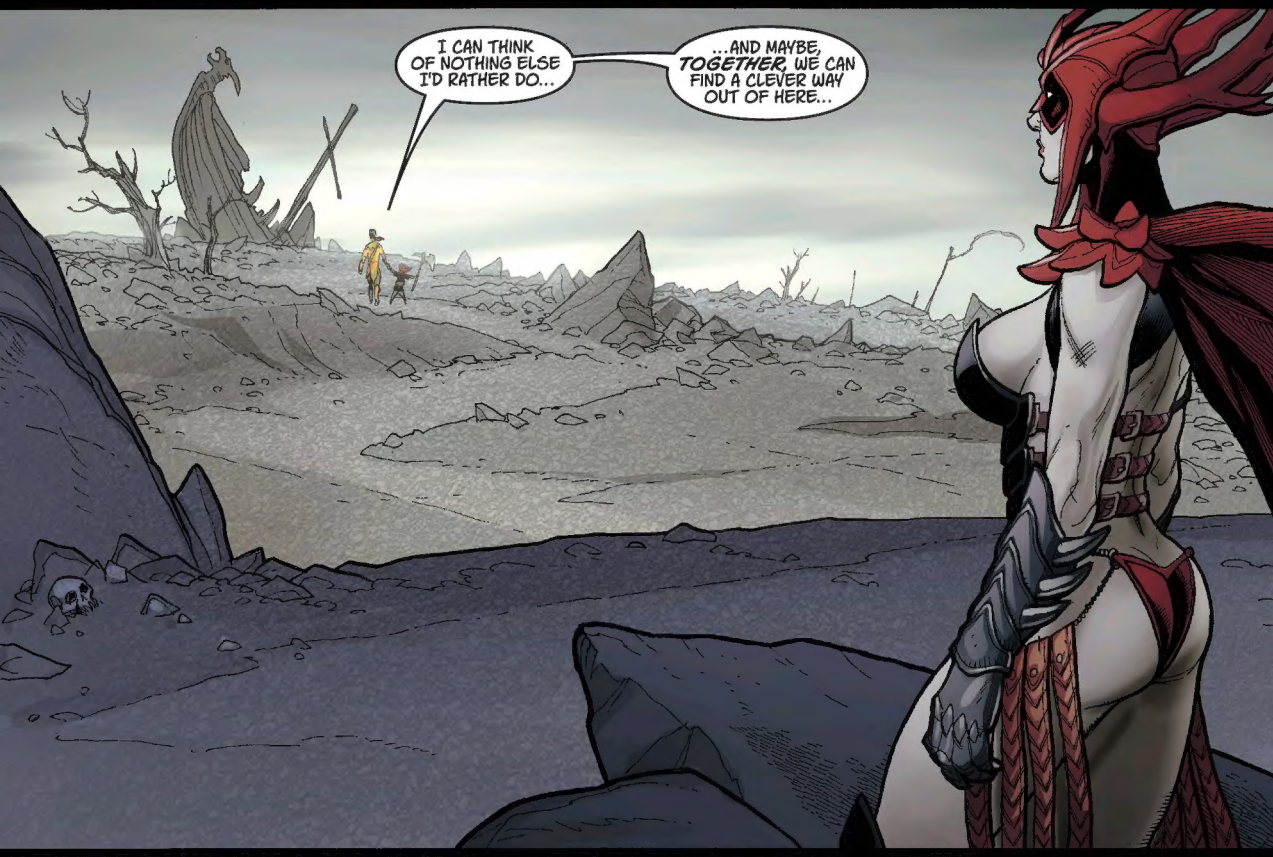
THE TRISKELION. S.H.I.E.L.D. TRAINING FACILITY.
DAMMIT.
PAUSE AUTO-TRAINING AK-47 SIMULATION.
SIMULATION HALTED.
TRY IT AGAIN, CAPTAIN...
...WITH THIS.
IT'S... PERFECT. HOW...?
A GIFT. FORGED BY THE DWARVEN BLACK-SMITHS.
WE LOST SO MUCH TO BRING ABOUT MY RETURN --
-- I THOUGHT IT BEST THAT WE FOUND SOMETHING AS WELL.
HEARD YOU WERE IN ASGARD.
DID YOU SEE YOUR FATHER?
I DID.
IT WAS THE VERY DEFINITION OF "BITTERSWEET."
THE DEATH OF ONE SON... AT THE PRICE OF THE REBIRTH OF ANOTHER...


VALHALLA. MYTHICAL LAND OF THE FALLEN. TIME UNKNOWN.
FOR ASGARD!
A MIGHTY WARRIOR. INDEED.

HMMMPH. WHO ARE YOU?
A FRIEND.

THINK OF ME AS... AN UNCLE.

I'M BORED. THERE'S NOBODY AROUND TO PLAY WITH. DO YOU WANT TO PLAY?


I CAN THINK OF NOTHING ELSE I'D RATHER DO...
...AND MAYBE, TOGETHER, WE CAN FIND A CLEVER WAY OUT OF HERE...

THE TRISKELION.
FIGURED YOU WOULD BE LONG GONE BY NOW.
WITH THE JUNGLE TWINS, THE PANTHER, AND THE BITCH GODDESS OUT OF THE PICTURE --
-- WHY SHOULD I LET YOU HAVE ALL THE FUN?
WE'LL STILL BE HOUSED HERE. WITH S.H.I.E.L.D.
YEAH, WELL, THE DEVIL YOU KNOW.
AND I'LL STILL BE DATING CAROL.
WHICH MEANS, LIKE IT OR NOT, SHE'LL BE IN YOUR LIFE.
THEN I GUESS THAT MAKES BOTH OF US STUPID.
YOU KNOW WHAT I COULD USE?
A TALL ONE, NO ICE?
WHEN ARE YOU EVER RIGHT?
SOMEBODY TO SHOOT AT.
WHO DESERVES IT.
I THINK I'VE GOT JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED...

ROOFTOP POOL AT 34TH & 2ND. EASTSIDE MANHATTAN. HOME OF PATSY WALKER A.K.A. HELLCAT.
GOTTA WRAP IT UP, DEFENDERS. PROMISED THE BUILDING MANAGER WE'D BE OUTTA HERE BY NINE.
BUT... I'M DOWN TWELVE DOLLARS.

LOOK AT US. FINALLY GOT THESE KICK-ASS POWERS...
...AND ALL WE DO IS PLAY CARDS AND WATCH NETFLIX.

I STILL THINK WE SHOULD HEAD OUT TO L.A.
CALL OURSELVES THE WEST COAST ULTIMATES. DRAFT A LITTLE ON THEIR FAME.

WE DON'T NEED TO CHANGE OUR NAME.
WE TOOK ON THE ULTIMATES. STOLE THOR'S HAMMER!
MAN, I WISH WE'D GET ANOTHER SHOT AT TAKING THEM DOWN.
EVERYBODY'D BE TALKING ABOUT US --

WHAT THE HELL?!

YOU KNOW THE OLD EXPRESSION, KIDS --

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR!
THE END.